

# 'Thank you for dancing'

Ashland seniors dance the night away



Gracelynn Schaefer, 7, dances to the song "Cotton Eye Joe" on Oct. 25 at the Southern Boone Senior Center.



Kathy Beasley, center, dressed in a Catwoman costume, leads a line dance Oct. 25 at the Southern Boone Senior Center. Beasley is a part of the band Silver Wings and leads the singing as well as the dancing.



Couples spin on the dance floor Oct. 25 at the Southern Boone Senior Center. The group meets every fourth Saturday of the month from 7 to 10 p.m. to line dance, waltz, two-step and jitterbug while the band Silver Wings plays.



From left, Mary Martin, Dollie Perkins and Rachel Martin stand on the dance floor for a portrait Oct. 25 at the Southern Boone Senior Center. The three have babysat each other's kids, gone to surprise birthday parties and spun around the dance floor together throughout the 60 years they have known each other.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ELIA MAST • Boone County Journal

Songs including "Wagon Wheel" and "Last Cheater's Waltz" played at the Southern Boone Senior Center on Oct. 25 as couples paired off to waltz, two-step and jitterbug.

The center has roughly 235 members, and around 40 come every fourth Saturday to dance, socialize and listen to the band Silver Wings.

"The main thing is to get to dance and listen to the music and then the next thing is to visit," Dollie Perkins said. "Most people put that visiting first, but I put the dancing first."

Many of the members have known each other since high school.

"They're all kinda like family to us because they've all been out here for years," Mary Martin said.

Attendees at the dance also spanned multiple generations of true families. Gracelynn Schaefer, 7, came to dance with her grandmother, Kathy Crane,

and great-grandfather, Wayne Crump.

Many of the attendees from Ashland, Columbia, Fulton and even Illinois have a lifelong history of dancing.

"My oldest sister used to dance by the radio with our

Collie dog," Perkins said. "The dog would stand on its hind legs, put its arms on her shoulder, and they would dance. So I started watching her."

Some of the dancers bring their partners. Others,

whose partners have passed away, dance among friends.

"Thank you, dancers," Kathy Beasley, singer of the band Silver Wings, said after each song. "And thank you for dancing."

*"Most people put that visiting first, but I put the dancing first."*

DOLLIE PERKINS  
Member of the Southern Boone Senior Center

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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