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COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Hickman helps make musical connections

BY HANNAH MAGINOT

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COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Community happens all around us: at potlucks, in libraries, on the dance floor. This new weekly series will spotlight community builders in Lawton and the surrounding area that are working to give our city and region an identity we can be proud of. Know a person, place or event bringing people together? Let us know at hannah.maginot@swoknews.com.

The sound of community is music to Kathryn Hickman's ears — and vice versa.

"Music is something you can do all your life," Hickman said, "and it really has a way of bringing people together. They say it has the power to 'soothe the savage beast.'"

The third-generation Lawtonian owns Academy of Music, where she teaches music lessons to all ages, and serves on the board for the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra. She is active with the Southwest Oklahoma Opera Guild and is a member of the Lawton Schubert Music Club and the Lawton Music Teachers Association.

"It's very humbling," she said, "to realize all the ways God has used me to reach out to people through music."

A BUDDING MUSICIAN

Hickman's mother was also quite musical and taught piano lessons in their home.

"I have very vivid memories of all the neighborhood kids in our living room playing and singing," said Hickman, who started learning to tickle the ivories at the tender age of 3.

By the time Hickman was in elementary classes at St. Mary's Catholic School, she was taking

piano and violin lessons from nuns and spending her recesses in the music room.

"I was fascinated," she said. "I was eating it up."

In her first three months of lessons, Hickman zoomed through three piano method books. By third grade, she was playing arranged music and accompanying, and in fifth grade, she started learning to play the organ.

"I was so small ... I couldn't reach the pedals, so I just didn't do the pedals until I grew some," Hickman said.

In her sixth-grade year, Hickman started playing the organ for the Wednesday morning children's mass at Blessed Sacrament. This year marks 50 years since she first sat played the church's organ, and she still plays for the Wednesday morning and Saturday evening masses.

"This is my opportunity to



Michael D. Pope/staff

It has been 50 years since Kathryn Hickman first tickled the organ ivories at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Hickman accompanies the church choir every Wednesday morning and Saturday evening and is known for connecting members of the local music community, in an outside of the church.

give back," Hickman said. "This is where it all started for me."

INVESTING IN LAWTON

In 1974, Hickman graduated from Lawton High School. She then earned a degree in piano performance from Cameron University, followed by a masters from Midwestern State

University in Wichita Falls and a second masters from University of Texas at Austin in music pedagogy.

She returned to Lawton to teach at a friend's music school, and in 1985, she took over the school's leadership. Though the school has had different names

and locations over the years, the Academy of Music, in its new location at 1930 NW Ferris has been a staple in local music education. Hickman has taught multiple generations of the same family, and said she loves to help young musicians learn

See Hickman, 3C

Hickman

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to invest in the community.

"I tell all my students, 'You have a God-given talent,'" she said, tears welling in her eyes, "you can't hide that, you've got to share it with other people."

"I've been able to do that with my life and career — I've had lots of neat opportunities — and I'm grateful."

When Hickman returned to Lawton, she also took over organ duties for the Sunday morning services at New Post Chapel on Fort Sill. Since 1985, she's greeted military families from all over the world and shared her love of music with them.

"People come and go, and some of them come and go multiple times," she said. "But I love providing this space for them to come home to."

Doris Lambert has known Hickman for more than 30 years, many of

which Lambert has served as choir director at New Post Chapel on Fort Sill.

"We have created a lot of music together," Lambert said. "It's been wonderful to work alongside someone whose heart is so engaged."

New Post Chapel has a diverse congregation, from active duty military families to retirees, international military leaders and young, single soldiers from across the U.S. Lambert said Hickman's gentle, genuine spirit helps newcomers feel welcome in a new community.

"She contributes not only her talent, but also her presence and support," Lambert said.

In addition to planning the music for the

weekly Sunday services, the women have paired up to organize everything from holiday services to performances honoring veterans and the annual collaborative Handel's Messiah, which Hickman considers a gift to the community.


"Anything you can think of that deals with music, you'll see Kathy's name there," Lambert said. "She is always willing and able to plunge in and do whatever needs done."

At the end of the day, Lambert said it's Hickman's loyalty that makes her a true community builder.

"If Kathy's your friend, she's your friend for life," Lambert said, "and that's a wonderful thing."



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South can men take me top diamonds and ruff a diamond. He gets to his hand with a trump to discard two clubs on the good diamonds.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ Q 9 7 6 ♥ A 9
♦ K 6 5 3 2 ♣ 9 5. Your partner opens one heart, you respond one

♠ 9 5

East	South	West	North
1♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
2♥	2♠	3♥	4♠
All Pass			

Opening lead — ♥2

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HARCI

SNUTT

MRAHEP

GHIMYT

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



THE TENNIS PLAYER WAS DOING QUITE WELL IN THE TOURNAMENT, UNTIL HE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: ACUTE ELDER SNAPPY SCARCE
Answer: When the reclusive celebrity was spotted, it — CAUSED A "SEEN"