

ENTERTAINMENT

Mike McAllister, director

By CAROL FEINEMAN
The Union

Sometimes you can go back home again, something Nevada County Concert Band summer conductor Mike McAllister has found out.

McAllister, who graduated from Nevada Union High School in 1972, was an assistant professor of music and music director at North Carolina Wesleyan College from 1987-97.

After 10 years of living in the South, McAllister and his wife returned to Nevada County last summer to raise their two children. "We were just looking to get back home," McAllister said.

He was immediately hired as Lassen High School band director in Susanville. McAllister's duties include teaching band, chorus and humanities classes and directing the chamber music groups and jazz band.

During the school year,

THE ARTISTS

McAllister stays in Susanville from Sunday to Friday. He teaches brass at McLaughlin Music Studios in Lake of the Pines and works on his teaching credential at Chapman University in Sacramento during the weekends.

Growing up in Nevada County, McAllister established long-lasting ties. He played trumpet for the Nevada County Concert Band as a high school student in 1970. Throughout the years, he stayed in touch with the music group. McAllister conducted the band during several summer visits in the 1990s.

"Conducting the band is like being with old friends," McAllister said. "I'm a big believer in community music."

McAllister still feels the same amount of pride in the concert band as he did in the '70s.

"I'd like to see the amateurs continue to perform and be part of



The Union/John Hart

NUHS grad Mike McAllister divides his time between teaching in Susanville and directing the county Concert Band.

a musical group. It's a good thing for people to do for themselves and it's nice for the community. Nevada County is such a wonderful place for cultural events — I want to see that continue," he added.

McAllister will conduct the concert band's last free performance

of this summer at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Pioneer Park band shell in Nevada City.

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