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Pops and picnics in 'The Great Outdoors'

Sunday's concert the last one of this summer

By Pam Jung

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Thursday, August 25, 2005

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John Gibson, local fiddler, plays a little country and western with the Nevada County Concert Band. Submitted photo

If you are a picnic and pops person, be aware that Sunday is the last chance to participate in the Nevada County Concert Band's outdoor concert series at Pioneer Park.

"The Great Outdoors" is the theme, celebrating this country's beauty - so expect to hear some great favorites, such as "Up, Up and Away!" and, of course, "Rocky Mountain High."

Songs like "The Pina Colada Song" honor the summer season as it starts to wind down. A couple of medleys will include country and western and American sailing songs - "Red River Valley" and "What Shall We Do with a Drunken Sailor," are two examples. John Gibson, a member of the local Fiddle Society, will lend authenticity to "Turkey in the Straw" and "Old MacDonald." Most all the pieces played are easily recognizable, encouraging sing alongs.

One original piece, a whimsical one that is pure Americana, is the "Adventures of Tom and Huck." The band does something a little unusual with this one, but you'll have to come to hear what it is.

Conductor Cheryl Baker says, "So many pieces in this concert are just plain fun," like "Teddy Bear's Picnic," which seems to mimic what the audience itself is doing.

Baker says that attendance has been up this summer, between 800 and 1,000 people, so far.

The band, she says, has been playing pops at the band shell since the 1980s. It is about 50 members strong these days. The band's next gig is Nevada City's Constitution Day Parade on Sept. 11.

Know and Go

What: Pioneer Park Picnic Pops Concert

When: Sunday, 5 p.m.



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Ike Geddings, on euphonium, plays the part of the elephant in a duet with the piccolo player in the "Elephant and the Fly" at Sunday's concert. Submitted photo



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Community members can enjoy the final summer concert by the Nevada County Concert Band. Submitted photo

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Where: Pioneer Park, Nimrod St., at the bandshell
 Admission: Free, donations accepted
 Information: 477-4787; e-mail: nccband@yahoo.com; on Web: www.nccb.org

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