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Blue Hawks slate reunion concert

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The Blue Hawks, a band that brightened the Missoula musical scene from 1956 through 1966, will reassemble for a jazz concert Friday (July 28) at 8 p.m. in front of the University of Montana Lodge.

The program will feature the sounds of the big bands of the '30's and '40's, according to Jim Snyder, director.

Snyder, who teaches band and orchestra at Park County High School, Livingston, said all the instrumentalists for the Friday concert live or have lived in Missoula and all are professional musicians.

About 16 former Blue Hawks, one from as far away as Washington, D. C., are expected to be on hand for the reunion performance. More than half of them are ex-members of the U. S. Navy Band. Four of the six leaders of the band during its decade of active life will play with the group Friday.

The concert includes some old standards with new settings. One of these, "Moonlight in Vermont," spotlights Ernie Carlson as trombone soloist. Carlson, a Missoulian, is a junior at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Other "ride men," performers who take solos, are Wayne Peterson on trumpet, Harold Herbig on tenor saxophone, and Snyder on saxophone.

Peterson teaches music in Geraldine. Herbig is a member of the UM music faculty.

The Friday concert is part of the musical entertainment planned for students attending the Montana High School Fine Arts Camp, which opens on campus Sunday (July 23), but everyone is invited, according to George D. Lewis, camp director.