



IN THE BACK of the band room, Rory Wendelin read her music and played the drums during class on Friday at the high school. There are 29 students in the band this year under the direction of Christie Morris.

Musicians tune up their instruments in band practice

Horns toot, reeds are moistened, drums tap and papers rustle a little as students in the high school band room prepare for class.

As instruments are put together and music is taken out, there is a low murmur as the students ask questions and talk with their neighbors. Christie Morris, the new band teacher, weaves in and out between stands and students, handing out papers and picking them up, then tells the band to start their scales.

With everything in order, Mrs. Morris stands on the platform. The band is warmed up and it's time to get to work.

Mrs. Morris said this year, she wants the band to concentrate on sound and seeing how far the kids can go.

"I am really impressed with how hard the students work," she said.

She said she is also going to focus on quality and technique with the students.

Although Mrs. Morris has been teaching at the grade school for 17 years, this is her first year at the high school.

This summer when she got enrollment figures, she said, there were only 17 students enrolled. Mrs. Morris said she had an ice cream social, made phone calls and got more kids involved. Music and band are really fun, she said, and she wanted kids who had dropped out to come back.

She touched at least a dozen; there are 29 enrolled now. Some of the students who dropped weren't able to enroll in the class, she said, because of scheduling and other electives offered.

Mrs. Morris said the band won't

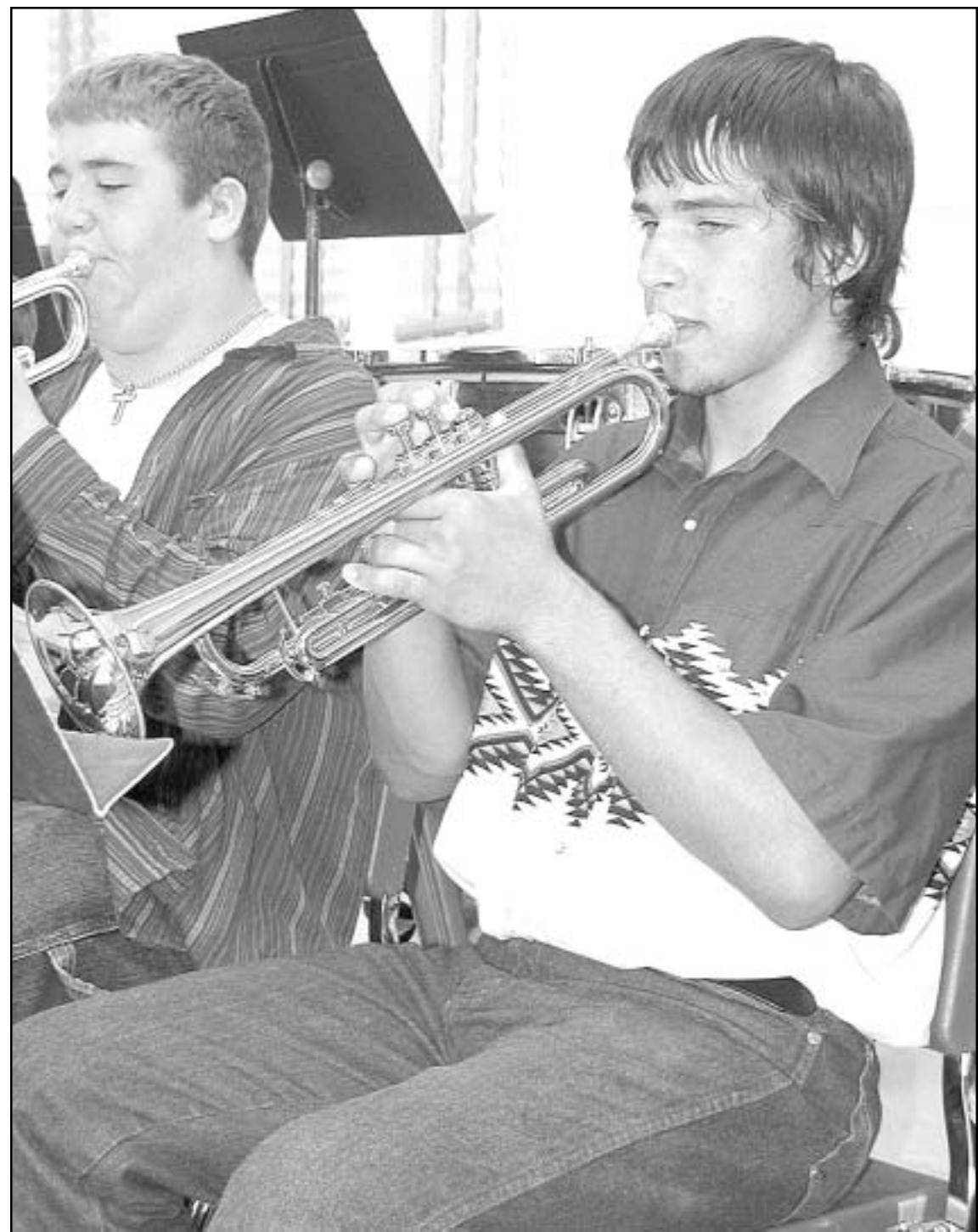
be marching this year. With four football players in the band, leaving only 25 students for games, there aren't enough to march. A lot of area schools aren't marching this year, she added.

The band will still play in front of the stands and at games. Mrs. Morris said she has opened up the pep band to the junior high. Students who are interested have to try out, she said, and so far there are six takers.

Students have two major concerts this year, plus honor band and contests in April.

Mrs. Morris said the band will be going on a trip. They go every other year and didn't last year. She said she isn't sure where the band will go. The trip must be approved by the school board and the band will be holding fund raisers.

Any alumni who are home for games are welcome to play with the band, she said.



ON TRUMPET, Gabe Moore (above left) and David Urban got ready to belt out a tune. Jacinta Carter (left) played her clarinet.

Story and photos by Kimberly Davis