#### Among Children

### Center Identifying Emotionally Disturbed

by Patricia Cain Public Information Coordinator Sandhills Center

As part of a 1979 lawsuit against the State of North Carolina, Sand-hills Center is taking the lead in identifying ci ildren who are emo-tionally and/or mentally handi-

capped and violent.

These children, referred to as "Willie M.'s." have previously been underserved or inappro-

# Rockfish News

Dr. David Sutton, minister of Galatia Presbyterian Church was unable to be in the pulpit the past Sunday morning. He became overnight Saturday and was unable short notice. A short worship service through song and prayer was led by Mr. Eugene Shannon. Everyone is sorry you are ill David and wish you an early recovery. Circle #4 of Galatia Presbyterian

Church met Tuesday morning. March 16 at 10 o'clock at the church with 11 members and one visitor present. Bible study was led by Mrs. Lawrence Barnard. After the meeting adjourned Mrs. Lydia Johnson, Circle Chairman served refreshments.

Mrs. Martin L. Wood. Sr., returned recently from an extended trip to California. She spent several weeks with her daughter, Mrs. Jim Duncan, Mr. Duncan and children in Santa Maria and also spent a couple of weeks with her sister. Mrs. Mary A. Hayes in Arcadia. California. She reports a wonderful trip and especially enjoyed the nice weather. While we were shivering from the sleet, snow and cold weather the past winter she was enjoying the balmy California weather. Glad you had a nice trip "Miss Clara" but also glad you are

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wood and son. Timothy of Greenville. North Son. Hmothy of Greenville. North Carolina, spent the past weekend with Mr. Woods' mother, Mrs. Martin L. Wood, Sr.

Mrs. Marianna Johnson McLean of Raeford spent Sunday night with Mrs. Margin L. Wood, Sr.

Mrs. Chris Ray of Hope Mills visited Mrs. Charles Chason Thursday of last week.

day of last week.

The Rockfish REVUE Country Rock Band from the Rockfish area performed a concert at Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., Friday evening, March 12, with overwhelming success. Attendance by students and faculty members was excellent and enjoyed by everyone. There are plans for more perfor-mances there by the band next school year. Band members are Earl Chason, "Chuck" Chason, Wayne Monroe and Kenneth Barnes.

Earl Chason and children "Chuck" and Jennifer of Hartsville, South Carolina spent the past weekend with Mr. Chason's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chason.

Mrs. Janice Long of Alexandria spent the past weekend with her

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Barnard Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Barnard visited Mrs. Luther M. Huggins. Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. James C. Huggins of Red Springs the past Sunday evening. Mrs. Huggins, Sr. was home from Southeastern Hospital in Lumberton where she had been a patient.

Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Pardue and daughter. Sherrie of Chester. Maryland, spent the past weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Alton McCul-

Mrs. Alton McCulloch is on the

sick list this week.
Mrs. Gordon Barnard and Mrs. L.B. Dove of Cheraw, South Carolina visited Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Barnard the past Saturday. Mrs. Dove also visited her grandmother

Mrs. Mamie Adkins while here. Mrs. Ethel Monroe was admitted to Highsmith-Rainey Hospital last week. A this time she is reported to be getting along much better and hopes to be released from the hospital Monday afternoon. Miss Nellie McFayden visited Mr. and Mrs. Roger Williams last

Sunday.

The community extends a warm welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Johnston and family who recently moved into the Gilbert Ray house on the Rockfish-Wayside Road. Mr. Johnston is employed at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayette ville. They have two small daughters, Sarah and Angela.

House guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Johnston and family this week are Mr. Johnston's mother. Mrs. Joseph Allen Johnston and sister. Miss Anne Johnston of Carrollton, Ohio. While visiting here Miss John-

ston will have an interview at Duke Hospital in Durham for employ-ment on the nursing staff.

The weather being so beautiful the past Sunday afternoon Mrs. Joan Gaddis rode her bicycle down for a visit with Mrs. Lawrence Barnard. They had a very nice visit and discussed forming a ladies cycling group. Mrs. Barnard got her bicycle out, cleaned and oiled it her bicycle out, cleaned and oiled it and did a little riding. Another lady in the community was "caught" working on her "bike" a few days ago. With the spring weather coming in sounds like a good idea. How about it girls? Anyone interested call 875-2736.

In the absence of Rev. Robert

In the absence of Rev. Robert Clegg layman Jimmy Deese led the worship service the past Sunday morning at Tabernacle Baptist

priately served in North Carolina. It is hoped that if we are successful in the identification of "Willie in the identification of "Willie M.'s," our area will receive funding to develop treatment programs for

these children.
On October 3, 1979, a lawsuit was filed by Albert Singer on behalf of four children (identified as Willie M., Jeanette M., Tom H. and Timothy B.) Singer alleged that the State of North Carolina had failed to provide appropriate treatment and education for North Carolina children under the age of

18 who are emotionally handi-capped and violent.

On September 3, 1980, Judge
McMillan held a hearing at which time he certified attorneys for the four plaintiffs to represent all North Carolina children who are

members of this class.
Who are "Willie M." children? Children who are seriously emotionally, neurologically, or mentally handicapped; who exhibit violent or assaultive behavior; who are not receiving appropriate treatment or education; and who are now involuntarily institutionalized or placed in residential facilities or whose condition requires such involuntary institutionalization or placement.

Current services are not effective. There are certain programs that do

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not exist; those that are present are full. Many times too much time lapses between services being requested and being provided. It is a common occurence for these children to end up in training schools before they receive needed services.

In conjunction with Davidson and Randolph County Mental Health Centers. Sandhills Center is developing a comprehensive range of services that should meet the needs of these children. Such services would include inpatient psychiatric services, group homes and specialized treatment services. Each child will have a case man-ager who will monitor the child's ogress throughout treatment.

Before this plan can be put into effect, we are in the process of identifying children who are in need of these services. Once this is accomplished, it is hoped that the legislature will approve the necessary funding to make our plan a reality. The Governor has stated that money will be provided to meet the needs of "Willie M." children. If you know of a child who meets the above criteria and is

the above criteria and is not receiving services, please let us know. He or she may be eligible for the "Willie M." classification. Contact Sandhills Center at (919) 875-8156 for more information.

NEE NINGY BAND -- The Nee Ningy Band will play their international music during the Hoke County Arts Festival April 3-9.

### Pac-man/Defender **Tournament**

The Hoke County Youth Council will sponsor a Pac-man/Defender tournament Saturday, starting at 1

First, second and third place will be awarded in the two categories. The first 12 people to return their applications will be eligible for the

Applications may be picked un at Grocery Mart, where the tourna-

ment will be held.

All ages are invited to enter and applications must be returned by Friday afternoon.

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