

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

by Dr. Barry Harding
Public Schools
of Robeson County



I realize that it's no longer news but that doesn't mean that I can't add my belated congratulations to those of the great many who have already acknowledged with pride the recent accomplishment of the Lumberton High girls basketball team. By now, everyone knows that, by winning the N.C. 4-A Girls championship in Chapel Hill on March 10th, the girls brought their school only its second state title ever. You have to go back 49 years to 1952 to find its first. Then, it was the boys' football team that won the 2-A title. The school has grown substantially since then.

For the girls, whose team racked up a record of 29-1 in winning the title, the last couple of weeks have been a blur of activity surrounding their accomplishment. From being honored by a parade in Lumberton to being the guests of honor at a civic club meeting to being introduced at a meeting of the Board of

Education to having Congressman Mike McIntyre introducing a tribute in the Congressional Record, they have been busy young ladies. Doubtless, there has been other recognition accorded them either individually or collectively that I'm not familiar with, recognition that they richly deserve.

What has impressed me about the young ladies on the team is the way they have deported themselves through all the attention they have received. Their behavior could well be attributed, at least partly, to the dedication, the spirit of teamwork and the good sportsmanship which was instilled in them by Coach Danny Graham and his staff. Beyond that, they had to have been affected to a great degree by the support they received from their teachers along with the rest of the school's administration, their fellow students, their parents and the

many residents who followed the team throughout the season and on the championship game in Chapel Hill.

As the Superintendent of a system which is ever striving for academic success, I am particularly proud of the 3.2 GPA which the team, collectively, attained during the championship year. When that figure was announced at the Board meeting at which the team was recognized, you could sense that the young ladies were, likewise, proud of that accomplishment. You have to know that, with the amount of time that is spent by athletes in practicing as well as playing in their games, it requires extra effort to find the time to do well academically. These ladies, doubtless were able to find the time.

I am certain that, even after the newness of their accomplishment has faded, they will carry its memory with them as long as they live. While Robesonians may not remember it as well as the participants do as time goes by, the trophy commemorating their success residing in the trophy case at their school, will serve as a reminder whenever a visitor to the school stops to look.

Again, our congratulations to the Lady Pirates.



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Applications to be accepted for Junior/Little Miss Lumbee Pageant

The Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA), sponsors of Lumbee Homecoming and the Junior/Little Miss Lumbee Pageant, will be accepting applications beginning April 2, 2001. Junior/Little Miss Lumbee acts as a role model for Lumbee Youth, and will participate in Tribal activities. Applicants must be enrolled, female, tribal members between 10 and 13 years old for Junior Miss and 6 to 9 years old for Little Miss.

If you meet the criteria and are interested in competing as a contestant please contact Hazel Perez or Terri Oxendine at ((910) 521-8602.

The Deadline is April 16, 2001.

In the event more applications are received than allocated slots available, a screening process will be initiated.

NOTICE: An entry fee of \$100.00 is required of all final contestants.

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