

Thomasville defeated Farmville Central in the title contest, but this year the squad was led by someone who wasn't even supposed to start the game. Charnette Davis was surprised by Head Coach Eric Rader when she was tapped to be in the starting lineup, and Charnette responded by scoring 18 points and pulling down 11 rebounds to be selected as the game's MVP. Charnette was also named as the MVP of the Western Regional final.

This third crown capped a remarkable 30–1 season, and Coach Rader told the High Point Enterprise that, in his mind, the final outcome was never in doubt. "When you have the heart of a champion like these ladies do, they never lose," Rader told the newspaper. For the last three years, the Thomasville Bulldogs have not lost and can celebrate this "three-peat" with pride and honor. The citizens of the Sixth District congratulate Coach Rader and his assistants Sara Larrick, Holly Harvey and Kelvin Caraway. In addition to MVP Davis, every member of the Thomasville girls basketball team contributed to the third straight title, including Leah Harris, Impris Manning, Mary Allen, Brittany Marsh, LaShonda Cosby, Wudi Alford (who was named Most Outstanding Player for her 18-point performance in the championship game), Brittany Sanders, Tameka Thomas, Erin Crowder, Kendra Rutledge, Sha Harris, and Jenny Burgess. Providing valuable assistance all season long were managers Byron Lattimore, Andrew Oakley, Clifton Carroll, along with statistician Shanterra Robinson and video coordinator Jonathan Caraway.

Again, we congratulate Principal Dick Gurley, Athletic Director Woody Huneycutt, the coaches, players, students, faculty, staff, family and friends of Thomasville High School on the winning of their third straight 1–A girls basketball championship.

In keeping with our theme of threes, another high school in our district won its third boys basketball championship in five years and its second in a row. On February 28, Westchester Academy of High Point won the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) 2–A title. The Wildcats defeated Carolina Day of Asheville 74–52 at Ravenscroft High School in Raleigh. Even though this was not the first title for Westchester, Head Coach Pat Kahny said this one was significant. "This was special," Coach Kahny told the High Point Enterprise. "There was a lot of pressure trying to repeat as the number one seed, and there was pressure because we played before the biggest crowd all year."

The title contest culminated a tremendous 29–2 season for the Wildcats. Following two consecutive losses at a tournament in December, Westchester ran off 20 straight wins on its way to the championship. Leading the way to the title was Jacob Briles, who poured in 37 points in the championship game while Toby Grauel added 21. Coach Kahny, however, does not think the offensive firepower the determining factor in the outcome. "Our defense in the second quarter was the key," Coach Kahny told the Enterprise. We forced a number of turnovers and got several easy baskets in transition. They (Carolina Day) have a very good offensive team. To hold them to 23 points in the first half was a tremendous effort."

Coach Kahny and his assistants Ken Hyde and Adam Schwartz led that tremendous effort

all season long. In addition to Briles and Grauel, the members of the winning squad included Britt Hutchens, Myles Pearl, Kemil Kepinski, Will Moore, Dexter Garner, Coleman Team, Jack Vance, Emir Dukic, Jack Tucker, Anthony Peters, Robert Byrd, and Tuck Tucker. Supporting the squad all season long were managers Candice Gilliland, Andrea McNamara, Kathryn Thompson, and Jeff Galloway along with publicist Lore Fariss.

Once more, we are pleased to congratulate Headmaster Tommy Hudgins, Athletic Director Kahny, the coaches, players, students, faculty, staff, family and friends of Westchester Academy for winning the NCISAA 2–A boys basketball championship.

On a final note, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge that either current or former staffers of mine are graduates of Trinity, Thomasville and Westchester. It makes their state championships all the more sweet, and we offer our heartfelt thanks for making us proud.

HONORING JOAN KERSCHNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the achievements of Joan Kerschner, director of the Henderson District Public Libraries in Henderson, Nevada. It is a great honor to publicly recognize the achievements and contributions of this exceptional woman.

Joan Kerschner has been a leader in the library sciences field for many years. In 1972 she graduated with a master's degree from Indiana University in Library Science. Since her first job as a librarian she has helped both the young and old, using her skills and knowledge to provide the vast amount of information that can be found within our libraries for research projects, practical questions, and personal knowledge seekers.

Since her graduation in 1972 she has served on many councils and committees to help promote and further the use of libraries and library services. She, along with myself, is a firm believer in promoting the use of available knowledge to all those that seek it. She discovered the advantages of seeking knowledge through her job, but wanted to help those around her to discover it as well.

Since Joan's arrival in Henderson, she has helped bring about the opening of the first new public library since 1989. In 2001 she received the Henderson Economic Development Award for Public Person of the year. She has been a member of the Education Committee of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce and the Issues Committee of Henderson Development Association. This past year she served as president of the Henderson Rotary.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Joan Kerschner on her achievements and her community contributions. I hope that all of my colleagues will support me in giving thanks to her for her contributions and example of what knowledge and information can accomplish for those that seek it in their lives.

THE VOIP REGULATORY FREEDOM ACT OF 2004

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "VoIP Regulatory Freedom Act of 2004," in conjunction with my colleague in the United States Senate, Mr. SUNUNU, who will be introducing the companion version of this bill in that Chamber today.

This act will grant regulatory freedom to a new and exciting technology known as voiceover-Internet-protocol, or VoIP, by prohibiting the imposition of unnecessary federal, state and local regulation in order to allow this emerging technology to grow and develop. VoIP has flourished and prospered thus far because of the relatively hands-off approach taken by regulators and concomitantly the effectiveness and robust nature of the competitive marketplace. In order to ensure the continued success of this new technology, and the concurrent benefits which it delivers to the American consumer, we must prevent the wholesale or even piecemeal application of outdated regulations.

VoIP is the technology that allows voice communications to be converted into "packets" and transported with data over an IP network, such as the public internet or a privately managed IP network, to the desired location using IP addressing. The end result is a more innovative and technologically-advanced service to the consumer, while also the most efficient and cost-effective method by which to communicate.

Because VoIP is predominantly interstate in nature, the bill provides for a prohibition of state and local regulation and taxation of the application. This in no way implies that states and localities do not play a very important role in our federalist system as it relates to telecommunications policy. Rather, because of the unique attributes of this technology, including its mobility in some instances, a general inability to decipher the actual origination of calls in other instances, and the irrelevant treatment of area codes when assigning numbers, it would be deleterious to impose a patchwork of 50 different sets of regulatory regimes on such a nascent and far-reaching technology.

Having said all that, I do recognize that there are specific types of VoIP applications that have the capability to send calls to or receive calls from the public switched telephone network ("PSTN"), which I refer to as "connected VoIP applications." By sending and receiving calls to the PSTN, providers of connected VoIP applications will have to assume some obligations, such as (1) some type of interprovider compensation; (2) contribution to the Universal Service Fund; (3) compliance with law enforcement access; and (4) industry consensus on social obligations such as 911 service, disability access, reliability and security.

First, in light of the capability to send calls to or receive calls from the PSTN, the bill recognizes an obligation on the part of providers of connected VoIP applications to compensate others for the use of their facilities and equipment on the PSTN through some sort of interprovider compensation, which will be determined by the Federal Communications Commission. When making this determination, the