



Juvonte Reddic has eye on the NBA

-See Page B10



Fire chief says he will retire later this year

-See Page A8

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Franco Campaign Photo

Valene Franco rides in Kernersville's recent 4th of July parade behind a supporter holding her sign.

Summer on the Stump

District Court hopeful looks forward to head-to-head challenge

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Parades, neighborhood gatherings, 5Ks.

Valene Franco is using every avenue available to introduce herself to county voters and talk to them about her run for the newly-created District Court judgeship.

Franco, managing attorney for the Family Law Department at Legal Aid of North Carolina's Winston-Salem office, has been everywhere as of late. Last week, she spoke to young girls at a Positive Image Performing Arts' Dance Camp and waved from a convertible to parade-goers at Kernersville's Independence Day celebration, as her supporters passed out bags of popcorn and candy.



Franco

"She's been shaking a lot of hands ... meeting a lot of people," said Nigel Alston, a motivational speaker and columnist who serves on Franco's campaign committee. "Particularly since the May 6th primary, she's been very, very active and engaged in the community."

Franco came in a distant second in that primary to Ted Kazakos, an assistant district attorney in the Forsyth County DA's office. Kazakos received 47 percent of the vote in the five-person, non-partisan race. Franco garnered 24 percent, setting up the general election contest between the two. Franco said the two-person race will allow her to accentuate her qualifications.

Franco has worked at Legal Aid, providing legal assistance to those who can't afford it, since 2002. Previously, she worked at Kilpatrick Stockton; she says her 15 years in the profession are more than her opponent has. She is also a former president of the Forsyth County Bar Association and the Winston-Salem Bar Association, a group made up of legal professionals of color. Franco's numerous community involvements include serving on the board of the teen arts outreach program Authoring Action.

A survey of North Carolina Bar Association members released during the primary campaign, shows that Franco is the hands-down choice among her colleagues. She garnered the most votes in all of the survey's categories, including "Legal Ability,"

See Franco on A8

AN INDEPENDENCE DAY THEY'LL NEVER FORGET



Photo by Todd Luck

Boy Scouts from Troop 730 lead the Pledge of Allegiance at Old Salem Museums and Gardens' nationalization ceremony on Independence Day. Nearly 50 area residents officially became United States citizens during the event, which was witnessed by a crowd of hundreds. Read more on page B1.



Photo by Lydia Derr

Mary King stands in her shop, Keona's Boutique.

Still Going Strong

King's boutique has survived downtown for nearly 30 years

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Mary King's Keona's Boutique is one of downtown's most enduring businesses. She fills her 235 W. 5th St. shop with fancy hats, smart dresses and ensembles that she hand picks. She believes clothing should make women feel like queens.

"I want my customers to look right and be happy," King said. "I want them to look good. They are representing me, and I want them to come back again."

The boutique, named after King's daughter Keon, caters to professional women who want to find that special outfit, whether it is for an important occasion or a church service. She has run the shop for 31 years. It has been at its current downtown location for 27 of those years.

Unlike many other black-owned businesses, Keona's Boutique has survived



Wellman-Roebuck

See King on A2

Ralliers call for change at NAACP 'March'

Photos by Chanel Davis

William Hairston Jr. with his granddaughter, Kayla.



BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Chants of "Forward together, not one step back" rang through downtown Winston-Salem Monday evening as the N.C. NAACP brought its Moral March to the Polls initiative to town.

Hundreds assembled at Corpening Plaza to show their opposition to new GOP-enacted laws that many believe curtail the voting rights of some North

See Rally on A3



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