#### NAACP from page AI

jority. Derick Smith, a political science professor at N.C. A&T State University, explained some of the recent bills, including voter ID laws to prevent what Smith says is a nonexistent voting fraud issue

"You don't really have to look too deep to figure out what's going on in our General Assembly - our government has been hijacked by a group of lobbyists," declared Smith, whose students were among "the first foot solin the Moral diers" Mondays movement. "...I believe that it's time to reclaim democracy for the citizens of this state."

week, Last Republicans killed the Racial Justice Act, a law local sponsored by Democratic lawmakers that gave death row inmates an opportunity to win a reduced sentence if they could prove that racism played a part in their sentenc-

ing. Winston-Salem Branch NAACP President S. Wayne Patterson told diverse the group of attendees that solidarity is the key to the movement's success.

"We can come together as a unified body, Patterson said. "Black, white, Hispanic, old, young, male, female - it doesn't make a difference because we are all citizens of North Carolina."

McCrory and House Speaker Thom Tillis have refused to meet with NC NAACP President William Barber II and others to discuss the current legislative session and have allowed peaceful protestors at the General Assembly to be arrested. Tillis has been caught on tape "literally running away from Rev. Barber and a group of people who tried to engage him," Stephens said.

"It reflects the public policy that they're pushing through to ignore people,' he said.

A handful of attendees had firsthand experience with the Moral Mondays protests. Six men, Rev. Steve Boyd, Patrick Carlton Donnelly, Dr. Eversley, Norman Hill, Rev. Ron LaRocque and Smith, shared their experiences of being arrested and detained for as many as 12 hours as part of the Moral Mondays movement. LaRocque, the pastor of . Metropolitan Community Church, said his attendance was "simply a matter of faith." "Bills that further marginalize some of the most vulnerable citizens of our state, that is the very definition of injustice," he intoned. "My faith requires me to raise my voice against injustice until God's righteousness comes back into our state."



Rob Stephens holds Democracy NC's Legislative Report Card.

Despite being arrested, Donnelly described his participation in the effort as "a wonderful experience.

"I got involved because I see what's coming down the pipe from Raleigh and it truly upsets me - I'm he said. outraged," 'They're focused on voting rights and everyone's rights to vote. There's nothing more fundamental than that, I think, to being American."

Hill, a math instructor

Davidson at County Community College, accompanied Donnelly at the June 3 protest, where more than 150 were arrested for civil disobedience. Hill railed against cuts in educa-

tion funding and programs, especially prekindergarten programming, which he says has been a key factor in the state's ability to increase its graduation rate.

"Education is something that's really important to me," Hill said. "Nothing's more important to me than education, and I see that under attack.'

State Sen. Earline Parmon has been with the protestors, whom she affectionately refers to as "jailbirds," every step of the way, even waiting outside the jail until the wee hours of the morning to greet them and thank them for their efforts. Parmon, a Democrat who represents the 32nd District, told attendees that Moral Mondays are making an impact on her conservative foes. She urged all those in attendance to also lend their support to the movement.

"God told us what He

# **ROCK-SOLID ADVICE**

Mother of actor/comedian speaks to local students

#### **BY LAYLA GARMS** THE CHRONICLE

Comedian Chris Rock's mother, Rosalie visited "Rose" Rock, Kernersville Monday.

Rock, an educator and host of the weekly Myrtle Beach, SC radio program, "The Mom Show, addressed students and parents at Sedge Garden Elementary School on June 10 - the next to last day of school - during the Fifth Grade Celebration.

Rock is a veteran parent. She and her late husband Julius Rock reared 10 children and 17 foster children. The family has roots in South Carolina, where

Chris Rock was born, and Bedford -Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, where the family relocated when Chris was a child. The . wisdom of Rose Rock's experiences is chronicled in the 2009 book,

"Mama Rock's Rules: Ten Lessons for Raising a Houseful of Successful Children." Rock addressed both the rising middle schoolers and their parents in her remarks. She advised the youngsters to make wise choices about the company they keep.

Warren

"Companions are just like elevators - they can take you up or they can take you down, so you be very, very mindful of who you're hanging with," she said. "Because if you're the smartest person in your group, then you're in the wrong group. Look out for people who you want to emulate."

Rock, whose book is billed as "a kicky blend of maternal spirituality and a 'don't mess with me or you won't get old' sense of authority," told parents to remain vigilant as their children move into middle school and the teen years.

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Elfreida Dixon (left) with Rosalie "Rose" Rock.

granted.

"Teachers come bearing gifts," she told the students. "They give us the gift of an education, they give you the gift of a future, if you want it."

Rock's visit was facilitated by Elfreida Dixon, a fifth grade teacher who has a special connection to the Rock family. \*1

lived around the corner from the Rocks, before they were "The Rocks,"" related Dixon, who babysat for Chris Rock when he was a youngster. "They're a beautiful family ... they're just down to earth, good people. Fame has not affected them at all."

Dixon says she has remained in close contact with the family, and has

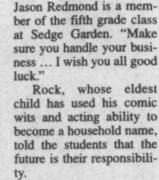
children too often take for marveled, watching Chris, whom she described as a quiet and reserved child, rocket to stardom. A veteran educator, Dixon said she felt Mama Rock's message would resonate with the audience.

"She is such a brilliant woman," Dixon said. "And she's family oriented she's all about the children.'

Principal Ramona Warren said she felt privileged to have Rock as a guest.

was in disbelief "I when Frieda Dixon first told me that she would agree to be our speaker," she said of Rock. "This is something that just doesn't happen, to have someone of her wisdom and her stature speak to our students.'

Rock was joined onstage by student speaker Theo Howard, a former Sedge Garden class presi-



Theo Howard speaks.

dent. Theo, now a fresh-

man at Glenn High School,

offered some words of

advice to the Class of 2020

as they prepare to enter

middle school. He told the

students to respect their

teachers, avoid negative

influences and, most of all,

put their schoolwork first.

to do a great job in middle

school," commented Theo,

whose younger brother

"I just want all of you

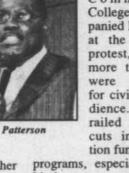
"I want you to go out there with vim and vigor with your minds open and your hearts open to be the best that you can be," she declared. "Success is a decision. You decide right now where you want to be in life - that is your decision."



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requires of us, and that is to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God," she proclaimed. "We cannot be a part of the conspiracy of silence. If you do, you are a part of them."

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home is what they bring into this environment, stated the former teacher. "You are the first, and you should be the best teacher, but now your job's going to get harder because they're going out into another world.

Rock touted the importance of a sound education, a luxury she says American

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## JUNE 14-16

### **EVENING CONCERTS**

### Friday, June 14 The Household Muse:

Salem Composers of the 19th Century 7:30 pm | Home Moravian Church, Old Salem \$13 Adults/\$10 Students\* Hannah Carter, Mary Siebert, Glenn Siebert, Jason McKinney, Susan Foster, Barbara Lister-Sink

### Saturday, June 15

The Kruger Brothers "Appalachian Concerto" Jim Lauderdale and The Amigos Band, with special guests from Muscle Shoals 7:30 pm | Performance Place Freedman Theatre \$25 Adults/\$20 Students\*

### Sunday, June 16

David Holt, The Branchettes, with special guest Laurelyn Dossett 7:30 pm | St. Philips Heritage Center, **Old Salem Museums & Gardens** \$20 Adults/\$18 Students\*

\* Valid with Student ID

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