



Photo by Jeri Young  
Abram Coker teaches Cody Barnett the proper way to ring the bell.

# Christmas bells: Ringers do more than raise money

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

If Abram Coker has a bad day at work thousands of people could suffer. So even though his work day stretches more than 10 hours, and his "office" is just a few square feet with no walls or ceiling, Coker says the term "bad day" is not in his vocabulary. As a Salvation Army bell ringer, the 39-year-old has been bringing his unique

brand of Christmas joy to retail stores across the city for the past six years. "I try to do something that will make someone's day," he said. And many will tell you that Coker has been doing just that. For the past three weeks, his smiling face and infectious spirit have become daily fixtures outside of the Target store on University Parkway. "He raises people's spirits. People appreciate him because he enjoys what he's doing," said David Webster, a Target

employee who works security. Standing with his shiny gold in his right hand and the trademark red kettle by his side - Coker gives compliments, tells jokes, shares kind words, and he sings. As shoppers race to the closest parking spaces and begin walking toward the store, they hear Coker before they see him. The tunes vary, but his attitude never does. Whether he's belting out "The Lit-

tle Drummer Boy," "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," "Frosty the Snowman," or his personal favorite "Silent Night," Coker finds time in between notes to say 'may the Lord bless you' to everyone who walks by, even if they don't slip a few coins or a dollar into the kettle. "All of us got to be treated the same way," Coker said. "The Good Book says we are all brothers and sisters." When Target first opens its doors at 8

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 17, 1998

## State Champions



Carver head coach Keith Wilkes is doused with Gatorade by his team. The Yellowjackets defeated Kings Mountain 33-28 to capture the 3A state title. Photos by Bruce Chapman

## Carver captures state championship

By SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

CHAPEL HILL - As the final seconds were winding down on the clock, Carver's football players gathered together to give Coach Keith Wilkes a Gatorade bath. Allen Pinkney, a senior defensive back, had just delivered the blow heard around the state when he drilled Kings Mountain receiver Kendrick Bell and forced a fumble. Sean Wilkes pounced on the football and the Carver faithful

braced themselves for a celebration. When the final horn sounded, the Yellowjackets players stormed the field. It was their time to be in the spotlight and Carver's players enjoyed it. The Yellowjackets' victory, in the State 3-A championship game, concluded a tumultuous four-year cycle that began with a 1-9-1 record during the 1995 season. Many of the seniors on Carver's team had been on the junior varsity that year and could only watch as the Yellowjackets struggled through their worst season ever. It wouldn't be their final battle, but that sea-

son is one that Wilkes and his team vowed to never forget. They haven't. Since then, hard work on and off the field has been the order for each day. Even during off-season, the players came on their own to get ready for each upcoming season. Those memories were fresh on the mind of Wilkes and his team as they bowed on their knees on the plush turf as team Chaplain Rev. Garland Wallace, Jr., prayed. After suffering through some hard times, the Yellowjackets had finally reached the pinnacle of

See Carver on A10

## Board votes not pursue contract with Edison

### Superintendent says talks on privatization will continue

By T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

What could have been is no longer. The city-county school board killed a proposal Tuesday night that would have put Cook Middle School under the control of the Edison Project for the 1999-2000 school year. The for-profit, New York City-based company operates 51 public schools throughout the nation, including one in Goldsboro. Tuesday's vote ended months of debate over the controversial proposal.



Brown

See Edison on A9

## Allegations of mismanagement arise at CDC

By SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Alvin J. Schexnider, Chancellor of Winston-Salem State, is in the midst of another controversy regarding the misappropriation of funds. Schexnider was investigated earlier this year by the state auditor's office after he was accused of purchasing personal workout equipment and home furnishings with state funds and having state employees transport it to his home. He was also accused of using state employees to perform private duties for him. He agreed to pay the state for the time that state employees used in transporting the equipment to his home. Accusation have arisen regarding misuse of funds from a federal grant. Schexnider, who also serves as president of the Simon Green Atkins Community Development Corporation, allegedly made funds available to a consultant who was hired prior to the time a grant was approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Atkins CDC was awarded the grant, which totals \$377,000

See CDC on A4



## Majority of Americans balk at impeachment

### Despite articles, blacks say leave president alone

By JERI YOUNG  
THE CHRONICLE

Barber shops are notorious hotbeds for political talk. But with a possible impeachment of President Bill Clinton looming, talk at Professional Barber Shop on New Walkertown Road Tuesday ranged from the high price paid by the Los Angeles Dodgers for Kevin Brown to cracks about the lack of an NBA season. Little if no time was devoted to Clinton. "We have cable," owner Charles Foster said when asked if he had been watching the impeachment hearings.

See Clinton on A10



Photo by Jeri Young  
Barber Charles Foster says the impeachment debate is a waste of time. "I'm against it," he said. "Let him walk."

## Local group to march against impeachment

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN  
THE CHRONICLE

The Rev. Jesse Jackson will lead a prayer vigil in Washington today in an effort to stop impeachment proceedings against President Clinton and turn Congress toward censure. "We're asking God for mercy, the Congress for a sense of proportional justice," Jackson said. The rally is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. just as members

See Rally on A8