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**5 MINUTE
TIMES**

NATION

The price of a quart of milk, a plane ticket and a host of other products rose in June at nearly the fastest rate in a generation, taking an even bigger-than-expected bite out of Americans' buying power. **A3**



John McCain told the NAACP and some skeptical black voters Wednesday that he will expand education opportunities, partly through vouchers for low-income children to attend private school. **A7**

WORLD

A member of the military mission that tricked Colombian rebels into freeing 15 hostages wore the insignia of the International Red Cross during the operation, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe said Wednesday. **A7**

STATE

State Treasurer Richard Moore officially endorsed Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue for governor Wednesday, two months after their expensive and acrimonious primary fight came to an end. **C2**

The president of the North Carolina NAACP has landed a spot on the organization's national board to represent seven Southern states. The Rev. William J. Barber II won the three-person election to represent a region that includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina and Mississippi. **C2**

PEOPLE

Ronnie Wood entered a rehabilitation facility Wednesday for help with alcoholism, said a spokeswoman for the Rolling Stones guitarist. **A2**



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COUNTY MOURNS A FALLEN HERO

"Just remember him as a person who died for his country."

Cpl. Pruitt Rainey among nine killed Sunday in deadly Afghanistan attack

By Keren Rivas
Times-News

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As disbelief turns into grief, family and friends of 22-year-old U.S. Army Cpl. Pruitt Rainey start preparing for what's next.

The Department of Defense confirmed Wednesday that Rainey, of Haw River, was among nine American soldiers serving as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force who were killed Sunday during a surprise attack on a small U.S. military base in northeastern Afghanistan near the Pakistan border.

Larry Redding, senior pastor at Glen Hope Baptist Church, said Army officials notified the family Sunday.

"Our church is just mourning," Redding said, "He was a fine young man."

Redding said he anticipates a funeral service for Rainey at Glen Hope Baptist, but no arrangements had been made as of noon Wednesday.

"We're thinking its going to be a tremendous crowd," he said. "Probably more than we can hold in our sanctuary."

Rainey, who graduated from Graham High School in 2004, started attending services at the church when he was in seventh or eighth grade, Redding said. As he grew older, he became very involved with the church's youth group.

"He really grew up here," Redding said. He said Rainey most recently attended a service at Glen Hope last fall, and remembered vividly how the congregation prayed for him.

Before being deployed, Rainey lived with his grandmother, Linda Kearney, in Haw River. Kearney had raised him since an early age.



Submitted photos

Haw River native Army Cpl. Pruitt Rainey is pictured in this undated photo at boot camp graduation at the U.S. Army training facility at Fort Benning, Ga.

More to the story

- **WITH THE WAR** in Afghanistan heating up, some American soldiers are looking beyond Iraq for a chance to prove themselves, **A2**
- **THE U.S. DECIDES** to abandon the isolated outpost in Afghanistan where nine soldiers, including Pruitt Rainey, died, **A8**
- **TO READ WHY** the Times-News made the decision to hold publication of this story by one day, check out executive editor Madison Taylor's blog at TheTimesNews.com. Go to Blogs, then click Madison Taylor.
- **SHARE YOUR MEMORIES** of Pruitt Rainey and watch video of his friends' recollections at TheTimesNews.com

"She was like a mother to him," Redding said, adding that she is also a longtime church member.

"We knew he was laying down his life every day" he was in the service, Redding said. "He was very

committed to that, that's what he was trained to do." He added, "He was very proud of serving his country."

FRIENDS STARTED posting messages on Rainey's MySpace.com Web page Sunday night as news of his tragic death spread. Many were shocked at the news, but all were happy to have known the avid high school wrestler who always made his friends laugh and had a positive outlook even during tough times.

"He has a very dynamic

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Attack that killed Rainey was bitter battle with insurgents

The Associated Press

At about 4:30 a.m. Sunday, hundreds of insurgents launched a massive attack against a remote military outpost in the northeastern Afghanistan village of Wanat near the Pakistan border.

The surprise assault, which lasted for hours, resulted in the death of nine NATO Inter-

national Security Assistance Force soldiers. Cpl. Pruitt A. Rainey, 22, of Haw River, was among those killed. Fifteen other soldiers were wounded.

The soldiers killed were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, and were stationed in Italy. They were:

- 1st Lt. Jonathan P. Brostrom, 24, of Hawaii;

- Sgt. Israel Garcia, 24, of Long Beach, Calif.;
- Cpl. Jonathan R. Ayers, 24, of Snellville, Ga.;
- Cpl. Jason M. Bogar, 25, of Seattle, Wash.;
- Cpl. Jason D. Hovater, 24, of Clinton, Tenn.;
- Cpl. Matthew B. Phillips, 27, of Jasper, Ga.;
- Cpl. Gunnar W. Zwilling, 20, of Florissant, Mo.; and

See **BITTER BATTLE**/Page A2

Lake rules revelations irk council

Data overestimated nutrients in storm water runoff

By Michael D. Abernethy
Times-News

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News that the state confirmed using questionable data to calculate portions of the Jordan Lake Rules irritated members of Burlington City Council Tuesday.

Utilities Director Steve Shoaf told the council that data in the rules overestimated the amount of nutrients in storm water runoff, and that the state Division of Water Quality employee overseeing the rules confirmed the flawed data had been used to create parts of the 11 regulations.

"He admitted that the state modified the numbers to fit the model and that they were too high. He had to admit that the numbers were too high," Shoaf said Tuesday night.

That data specifically affects proposed regulation for existing development — the area council

members have the most problem with. Shoaf and water managers around the region have been questioning the data behind the rules for several years.

During Shoaf's explanation, council members looked exasperated, questioning how DWQ could get away with using specious data.

"All along, they've failed to listen to concurrent data you've presented," Councilman Jim Butler told Shoaf.

The information in question was used for the state's watershed model, Rich Gannon, a DWQ planner overseeing the rules, confirmed Tuesday in a conversation with the Times-News. Other models have since shown a lower load of nutrients running into streams and rivers, he said. Those lower models are what would be used to implement nutrient-reducing strategies.

Gannon says the new numbers will reduce the cost of implementing the rules.

Shoaf agrees, and says Burlington's cost of compliance could decrease from upward of \$500 million to as low as \$300 million with new models. But he also

believes that data calls the state's whole plan into question.

"What it really means at the lake is anything we remove has less of an impact on the lake. Our chances of improving water quality at the lake are diminished," Shoaf said.

Shoaf called the timing of Gannon's admission political — during meetings in May and June, after the rules were passed unanimously by the state's Environmental Management Commission. Council members said they felt that the Division of Water Quality was attempting to cover up their mistakes until the rules went into effect.

City Attorney Bob Ward believes it's a breakthrough for the city and other opponents of the rules.

"This is really good. We will be heard. We're getting there," said Ward.

Gannon says the watershed model doesn't affect the data collected from the lake, which showed unacceptable and increasing amounts of nutrients in each of the lake's three arms

See **IRK COUNCIL**/Page A2

Oil prices drop for second straight day

By Adam Schreck
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oil prices settled sharply lower for the second time in a row Wednesday, leaving crude more than \$10 cheaper in just two days of frenzied trading and prompting speculation that the hard-charging market may be running out of steam.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery fell \$4.14 to settle at \$134.60 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after earlier sinking as low as \$132. The drop follows a \$6.44 sell-off Tuesday, crude's biggest since the Gulf War.

The two-day slide of \$10.58 a barrel marks a dramatic turnaround in crude prices, which as recently as Friday traded at record highs above \$147 a barrel. But even with this week's sell-off, prices remain about 80 percent above where they were a year ago and up about 40 percent from the start of the year.

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