



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Golf 101 Ericka O'Malley, a senior finance major, tees off at the beginning of golf class at Penberthy Field.

Sandbags pile higher as towns wait for more water

MONTEVIDEO, Minn. (AP) — Towns along the lower Minnesota River stacked sandbags and measured the rising flood Tuesday while Montevideo residents watched to see if they would get hit a second time.

"People are worried ... but we're taking it as it comes," said Myrtle Sherod, who was helping her daughter run Valentino's Restaurant on Main Street, protected by the levees.

Sherod turns 80 in two weeks. "The water had better go down by then," she said. Schools reopened Tuesday for the first time since last week, and many businesses on high ground also opened their doors in this town 130 miles west of Minneapolis.

But 80 miles downstream, high school students in New Ulm were hard at work piling sandbags along the Minnesota.

The river rose 1.6 feet Tuesday at New Ulm and is expected to crest there on Wednesday. The National Weather Service said it does not have an official flood stage for the city.

Farther downstream, below the point where the Minnesota joins the Mississippi, a crest nearly 10 feet above flood stage is expected Sunday at St. Paul, most of which is on higher ground.

Although the Minnesota was receding at Montevideo on Tuesday, a day after cresting nearly 10 feet above flood stage, experts warned that temperatures warm enough to melt snow on Wednesday, with a chance of more precipitation at week's end, mean the river could rise again.

"Multiple crests can occur, especially with snow melt runoff," said Mark Seeley, a climatologist at the University of Minnesota. "We could have another surge."

The timing of the snow melt was complicated by record cold covering the region since the weekend blizzard that dumped the snow.

Bismarck, N.D., dropped to a record low of just 3 above zero, while that state's western town of Dickinson fell to a record 8 below. Watertown, S.D., where many residents had returned home after flooding eased along the Big Sioux River, had a record low of 4, and Minneapolis-St. Paul chilled to a record 11.

Another problem was ice jams that formed temporary corks, threatening to rupture and release new flood crests.

Along the Minnesota-North Dakota state line, a huge ice jam was lodged about four miles south of Breckenridge at the confluence of the Bois de Sioux and Red rivers.

"I haven't seen it, but from what I understand, it's about as far as the eye can see," said Jewel Jones, Richland County emergency management director.

"It's inaccessible," she said. "The Army Corps of Engineers came in and checked it and said they couldn't do anything with it."

Floating ice on the Pomme de Terre River tore a hole overnight in a levee protecting the town of Appleton, about 25 miles from Montevideo, but volunteers poured in from miles around and closed the breach by morning.

Class of '00
Room 308
Rudder Tower

Class of '99
Room 301
Rudder Tower

General Class Meetings



Wednesday, April 9, 1997
7:00 P.M.

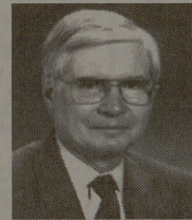
All students are welcome to attend!!!!

Class of '98
Room 504
Rudder Tower

Class of '97
Room 302
Rudder Tower

CHAT & CHEW

Discuss questions and concerns with your Vice President for Student Affairs



DR. MALON SOUTHERLAND
Light refreshments available.

APRIL 9 in the MSC
10:30 - 12:30

Search continues for Air Force bomber

PHOENIX (AP) — Capt. Craig Button took off on a \$9 million Air Force attack jet last week for a practice run. Within minutes, the plane and its arsenal of four 500-pound bombs were gone. All that is known for sure is that the A-10 Thunderbolt was last spotted on radar over the Colorado Rockies — nearly 800 miles off course. That was last Wednesday.

Did it crash?

Was it sabotaged?

Or did the pilot steal it, like something out of the movie *Broken Arrow*?

"Anything you can think of has probably been looked at," said Staff Sgt. Rian Clawson at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. "But the evidence so far doesn't indicate any of these wild hypotheses, like he was trying to steal it, or he went off to Telluride to go skiing."

The Air Force rebuffs the idea that Button purposely veered the plane off course. But officials acknowledged Tuesday that investigators are looking into Button's background.

"The investigation ... includes all aspects of the plane and pilot, anything to do with the situation," said Staff Sgt. Bret Ziemann at Davis-Monthan.

People who live near the base consider anti-aircraft or even cult activity possible.

"It sounds fishy," said Bob Jones, a customer at Famous Sam's Restaurant and Bar. "He could

be part of a militia, for all anyone knows."

Officials had theorized the pilot could have become incapacitated and may have put the single-seat plane on autopilot. But radar and witness accounts suggest the plane was being maneuvered and was not simply gliding.

The mystery began last Wednesday morning about 90 minutes after Button's plane took off in formation with two other A-10s bound for the

shifted to Colorado three days later after authorities checked radar records and witnesses there reported seeing a low-flying plane.

Pentagon officials were looking into the time Button spent at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, where he was a flight instructor until he arrived in Tucson in February to train on the A-10, an ungainly anti-tank plane commonly known as the Warthog.

Button's relatives said they knew of nothing suspicious involving the 32-year-old Massapequa, N.Y., native.

"He was A-OK, stable, didn't seem to be under any stress. But he was having to study hard," said the captain's father, Richard Button, who had trained pilots during World War II.

"We're hoping he bailed out. There's no evidence that he bailed out, but there's no evidence that he didn't," he said.

The last radar track showed the jet near the 12,467-foot New York Mountain near Edwards, Colo. Button's plane was fully fueled when it took off, but it would have been nearly empty by then. Tuesday's search in the area was cut off in the early afternoon by low and threatening clouds.

"In some instances, if a plane crashes it's easy to see, but not always," LaMarca said. "If it crashed and is now covered with snow, that makes it more challenging. And no one saw it go down."

"It sounds fishy. He could be part of a militia, for all anyone knows."

Bob Jones

Customer, Famous Sam's Restaurant and Bar

Barry M. Goldwater bombing range in southwestern Arizona. The plane was carrying conventional, not nuclear, weapons.

One of the jets reported seeing Button's plane flying in the rear, but a minute later the lead pilot radioed Button and got no response. When the other pilots realized the plane was missing, they broke formation and began the search.

Initially, the search focused in Arizona, but it

Newly assertive Gingrich back on offensive

WASHINGTON — After weeks of the political defensive, House Speaker Newt Gingrich is reasserting himself, trying to cement the support of conservatives, sketching themes of "freedom and initiative" to guide his party and envying huge Republican gains in the 1998 elections.

The Georgia Republican's attempted comeback remains clouded by his as-yet-unpaid \$300,000 fine imposed by the House last month for ethics violations.

But with characteristic bravado, Gingrich looked beyond his current penalties when he spoke recently of leading a follow-up to the "Contract with America" — in the year 2000. "I believe we're on the way," he said in a well-received speech to the GOPAC, the political organization that helped fuel his rise to power.

In a series of appearances over the past two days, Gingrich has spoken out sharply against a string of favorite conservative targets: the Clinton administration, organized

labor, liberal Democrats and the news media among them.

"It does not occur to me that a few months of planning is a cause for panic," he chided his GOPAC audience.

Democrats discount talk of a Gingrich comeback, and a recent USA Today/CNN poll put his approval rating at an abysmal 25 percent.

"I hope the speaker stays out there in public view," said Rep. Martin Frost, the Texas lawmaker who chairs the Democratic campaign committee. "Every day he's on television our direct mail fundraising receipts go up. ... He's helping us recruit candidates."

But Gingrich, according to press secretary Christina Martin, remains "committed to fulfilling his role as speaker, and staking out the vision for the party and for the

(conservative) movement."

Gingrich's re-emergence in public comes after months of criticism from fellow Republicans and persistent speculation in conservative publications about his possible forced departure as speaker.

He has largely stayed out of public view since he admitted violating House rules last winter. He was re-elected speaker, but nine fellow Republicans refused to support him. And his recent suggestion that Republicans defer tax cuts until after voting on a balanced budget plan touched off widespread criticism.

Rank-and-file Republicans complained about the slow start-up to the congressional session, and in one memorable phrase, GOP Rep. Peter King of New York wrote that Gingrich had become political "road kill."

Even before embarking on his recent trip to China — a journey that aides believe was a public relations success — Gingrich reaffirmed his support for tax cuts.

He also had lunch with mem-

bers of the GOP freshman class in an effort to satisfy them of his commitment to lower taxes.

"My sense of the freshman class is that the speaker enjoys strong support from our group," said Rep. Kenny Hulshof of Missouri.

Since returning from overseas last week, Gingrich has scheduled his first sit-down television interview in months, an appearance Friday night on Larry King.

He telephoned radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh twice in two days, once to criticize his conservative critic, William Kristol.

As for the ethics sanction, Martin said no decision had been made on how to pay the \$300,000 that Gingrich was assessed as part of his agreement with the ethics committee last winter. Gingrich must decide whether to pay out of personal funds, a step his wife, Marianne, is said to oppose, or out of some sort of political or legal defense fund, a step that risks incurring the wrath of fellow lawmakers. A combination of the two also is possible.



Gingrich

Fish BEACH Ball
Open to the entire campus
April 11, 8 p.m. to midnight
Outdoor REC Center
\$5 per person

Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Swimming, Dancing, Food, Door Prizes

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Map showing locations: BATTLE LN, CARSON, VILLA MARIA, 2206 Finfeather Rd.

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Assistant Managers
Kitchen Managers**

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Lone Star Overnight is a premium quality, overnight air express shipping company serving the 25 largest metropolitan areas in Texas. LSO needs highly motivated, courteous, dependable, prompt and professional women and men with great communications skills who desire a long term career opportunity. This part-time courier position offers approximately 15-20 hours per week with a flexible schedule. You must be available to begin work on April 28th. LSO offers starting pay of \$8.20 per hour, medical coverage, paid vacation, profit sharing, and 401k retirement benefits to full-time employees. A LSO courier's primary duty is courteous, efficient and professional pick-up and delivery of high priority packages driving a company owned vehicle while adhering to strict safety procedures.

Essential job requirements include the ability to operate a standard delivery van, to life and maneuver 75 pounds without assistance and maneuver 150 pounds with appropriate equipment. You must be able to communicate well in English, both verbal and written. In order to meet vehicle insurance requirements, you must be at least 25 years old and a clear motor vehicle report for the last three years is highly preferred. LSO is committed to a drug-free workplace and requires a pre-employment drug screen. A background check and physical examination may be required.

If you have the energy and desire to contribute your talents to this fast growing and successful company, please come to the Pavilion, Rm 219 or the Career Center located on campus April 8-10 to fill out an application. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. EOE.