

TUESDAY

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The Arizona Daily Star

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The tax man taketh, but his job is just beginning

By Alan D. Fischer
The Arizona Daily Star

For some people, those taxing times officially end at midnight. But for others, tonight's income tax filing deadline means an increased workload.

There will be no big sigh of relief here (tomorrow), said Dan Zemie of the Arizona Department of Revenue. "We had been very busy handling requests for forms and questions but it's not all over yet."

State and federal workers will spend months processing the millions of individual tax forms sent in this year.

If you are under stress because you have not completed your tax forms, help is still available. Of the

more than 1.8 million state tax returns expected this year, 500,000 will be sent in the tax season's final week, including 300,000 today, Zemie said.

"We still have to process all the remaining returns. Our goal is to open them all by April 25 and have all checks deposited by the end of the month," Zemie said. "We hope to have the processing of all returns through the computer and to their final resting place done by June 15."

"We still have quite a bit of work to do," he said.

Federal tax collectors also expect a deluge.

"April 15 is the biggest day when people try to get their returns in," said Bill Brunson of

The 11th-hour filers

About 20% of taxpayers admit to putting off doing taxes until the last minute, according to a recent study.

Who?	Why?
■ Busy family work life 51%	■ Middle-aged 29%
■ Disorganized 28%	■ Higher income 25%
■ Over taxes 21%	■ No time to review costs 18%
■ Tax forms too hard 8%	■ College graduates 27%

Source: Merrill Lynch survey of 1,008 adults, March 27 to 28. 3% error margin.

Knight-Ridder Tribune/TM GCHEN

Hey, IRS — does this kid look like a figment to you?

By David Reed
The Associated Press

ROANOKE, Va. — The Internal Revenue Service insists my only son — my brown-haired, baseball-loving son — doesn't exist.

This is serious. The bureaucrats are threatening to take away my paycheck. They say I owe \$838.40, plus interest and penalties, because we claimed Elliot as a dependent. They say he doesn't exist.

Try explaining that to an 8-year-old. "Does that mean I have to go to an orphanage or something?" he asked.

At first it was humorous nonsense.

Back in August, the IRS said we had to either pay up or prove that our son was not just a ruse to get a tax break.

I eventually learned that there have been many parents around



Elliot

See FIGMENT, Page 4A



McDougal, left, and prosecutor Starr leave courthouse after sentencing that pleased them both

Repentant McDougal is given just 3 years

'I got sick of lying' for Clinton

By James Jefferson
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — James McDougal, the Clinton's former business partner, drew a lenient three-year prison sentence yesterday for 18 felonies after the prosecutor said his cooperation led to information "previously unknown to us."

McDougal could have gotten up to 84 years in prison. He sent an ominous signal to the Clintons by backing away from his statement a year ago that he expected them to be absolved of wrongdoing in the Whitewater case.

"I wouldn't go to the bank on that," McDougal said, drawing a crowd of reporters outside the courtroom as he has often since emerging as the central figure in the Whitewater affair five years ago.

Asked why he was changing his story now about President Clinton, McDougal said in an interview with NBC: "I just got sick and tired of lying for the fellow. . . . Yes, I was trying to protect him."

In the television interview to be aired today, McDougal revealed his own story and insisted that Clinton was present for a 1986 meeting during which a \$300,000 illegal loan was discussed.

In sworn testimony videotaped and played at McDougal's criminal trial last year, Clinton insisted he had nothing to do with the loan and was not present for the meeting as alleged by another participant, convicted felon David Hale.

McDougal said at the time of the meeting he knew the loan was illegal but he had "no idea" whether Clinton, then Arkansas governor, thought the same thing. Asked what his changed story means for the president now, McDougal said, "I think that they should be deeply concerned."

Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr said McDougal's help has led to a "deeper, broader, deeper understanding" of the evidence that led to the conviction.

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WEATHER

Shades and shorts.
Sunny and warmer, northwesterly winds in the afternoon. High in the low 80s, low in the low 60s. Yesterday's high was 79, the low 45. Page 9A.

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Ground checks cut two sites from jet search

By Jon Burstein
The Arizona Daily Star

GYPSUM, Colo. — Ground excursions eliminated two of five top-priority search areas in the Colorado Rockies where a missing attack jet may have crashed.

But the 12th day of searching for Capt. Craig David Button and his A-10 Thunderbolt II ended as all the other days have — with no new clues to where or why the pilot took the \$8.8-million plane loaded with four 500-pound bombs.

"We're trying to find something out of the ordinary. . . . You're not looking for an airplane, you're looking for a junkyard," said Col. Denver Fletcher of the Air Combat Command, which is directing the search effort.

Button, 32, broke away from a three-plane formation that left Davis-Monthan Air Force Base on April 2, veering more than 775 miles off course. Radar last tracked the plane near the wilderness area outside Vail, Colo.

Air Force investigators have conducted about 200 interviews into Button's background but have failed to uncover anything that would suggest why he would take the plane, said Lt. Gen. Frank Campbell, commander of the 12th Air Force based at D-M.

"We uncovered no derogatory evidence," Campbell said. "There is no evidence there that he is anything but a model U.S. Air Force officer."

Colorado Civil Air Patrol officers also are interviewing people who reported seeing a glow on 12,467-foot New York Mountain the day Button disappeared. New York Mountain is 13 miles southeast of Vail.

Dick Dison, who owns an outfitter's shop in Avon, said he saw a large fire south-southwest of Interstate 70 on the day Button disappeared.

"All you could see was the glow," Dison said. "It looked like a miniature sunset or sunrise. It was very



Four Army National Guard helicopters approach New York Range

Tomorrow in The Arizona Daily Star

Future brunch
Lunch items will outnumber the breakfast standards, and ethnic foods will get a big play for brunches on the cusp of the millennium.

Cleanup crew
Homeowners and developers have combined to bring life back to Greasewood Wash on the city's westside.

Reno rejects outside probe of campaign flap

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Janet Reno refused yesterday to seek an independent counsel to investigate the growing White House campaign fund-raising controversy, saying there wasn't enough evidence to do so.

Her decision does not end a continuing Justice Department review of the campaign-finance issues. But she concluded that so far there was not enough indication of wrongdoing by high-ranking administration officials to warrant a special, separate investigation.

Reno's decision, although not unexpected, drew swift criticism from Republican members of Congress, who accused Reno of a conflict of interest and of politicizing the Justice Department.

"I am unable to agree, based on the facts and the law, that an independent counsel should be appointed to handle this investiga-

tion," Reno wrote Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. She maintained that career prosecutors can handle the probe.

"At this time we have no specific, credible evidence that any covered White House official may have committed a federal crime," Reno said. She was referring to a provision of the independent counsel law that requires a counsel be named to investigate evidence of felonies by the president, vice president and their highest-ranking advisers.

"I have not concluded that any conflict of interest would ensue from our vigorous and thorough investigation of the allegations mentioned in the act," she added.

"A task force of career Justice Department prosecutors and FBI agents . . . is pursuing the investigation vigorously and diligently, and it will continue to do so," she wrote.

The White House was low-key but obviously pleased with Reno's decision.

"Our views on this are well known. We believe that the decision on this ought to be based on the law," White House spokesman Barry Toltz said.

Republicans in Congress reacted angrily with Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., calling Reno's decision "inexcusable."

"There is a clear conflict of interest when the attorney general appointed by the president is called upon to investigate possible illegal acts by the vice president or other high-ranking administration officials," Lott said in a statement.

Only one Democrat joined the criticism, Sen. Russell Pritchard of Wisconsin, who has previously called for an independent investigation. He said such a review outside the Justice Department is "the only way to ensure public confidence."

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