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## Serbs agree to deal

By JULIJANA MOJILOVIC  
Associated Press Writer

ERDUT, Croatia (AP) — Rebel Serbs agreed Sunday to submit the last of their holdings in Croatia to government authority, resolving a dispute that threatened to derail U.S.-led talks in Ohio on peace for the Balkans.

"This is a historic signing," U.S. Ambassador Peter Galbraith said. "For the first time in this conflict an issue has been solved by a signature and not by a bullet."

The agreement, signed in this Serb-held town in eastern Croatia and witnessed by Galbraith and chief U.N. envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg, also averted the imminent threat of more fighting.

Croatian troops in May and August recaptured most Serb-held territory taken in a 1991 war, sending about 180,000 Croatian Serbs fleeing to Bosnia and Serbia.

Croatia threatened to attack the remaining bit of Serb-held territory, known as eastern Slavonia, if rebels refused to accept the plan for its reintegration.

Such an attack on the territory, which borders Serbia could have drawn in the Serb-led Yugoslav army, leading to renewed war and a collapse of Bosnian peace talks at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

In a show of force, the Croatian army had moved crack troops and heavy artillery toward the front line over the past few days. Witnesses also reported seeing a large column of Yugoslav army troops and guns headed toward the Croatian border late Saturday night.

"The agreement provides for a peaceful solution," Stoltenberg said. "I generally hope that this will have a contagious effect for the whole area."

The two negotiators later took the agreement to Zagreb, the Croatian capital, where the gov-

Continued Page 12



Sgt. Walter R. Williams was a member of the crew for the B-47 strato-jet that stands guard at the entrance to the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

## Vet recalls victory with 'Pride'

By SAUL G. FERRER  
Staff Writer

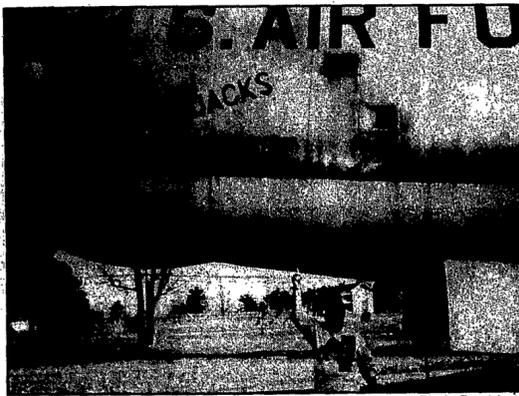
PLATTSBURGH — Retired Staff Sgt. Walter R. Williams traveled more than 300 miles to celebrate Veteran's Day with his two favorite ladies: his wife, Ginger, and The Pride of the Adirondacks.

"My airplane's here," he said, referring to the B-47 on static display at the Clyde Lewis Airpark, at the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

Williams helped maintain the plane for more than 10 years before it was decommissioned and became a display in 1964.

The couple journeys from their Gloucester City, N.J., home every two years to visit what Williams calls "the landmark," to take pictures for their grandchildren and to insure the aircraft is not neglected.

"She's still holding up after all these years. I saw the



Walter Williams stands under the bomber he helped maintain while stationed at PAFB.

stripes I painted on it over three decades ago — 30 years — it made me cry."

However, Williams did complain about some minor vandalism to the display.

"There's a hole in the cockpit and some scratches and dings," he said. "I hear them say it's going to cost almost \$10,000 a year, now that PAFB is closed, to maintain. For what? It has no engines. I don't see where the cost is going."

He and his wife "were sickened at the base's closure. We weren't sure if The Pride would still be here, but we had to come."

Williams said visiting "his baby" on Veterans' Day was more than a just nostalgic tour.

"We could have gone to McGuire (Air Force Base) to celebrate, but it's a matter of respect" for the aircraft, winner of the 1964 World Bombing Competition.

Williams and 11 other airmen competed in the international event in Spokane, Wash.

"We were the original Dirty

Continued Page 12

## White House won't budge

By ALAN FRAM  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration refused Sunday to commit to a seven-year balanced budget as the Republican price for averting the twin crises this week of a partial federal shutdown and a halt to government borrowing.

In what amounted to a day of broadcast budget bargaining, leaders swapped conditions for completing a pair of bills allowing the government to continue borrowing and spending money, which President Clinton has threatened to veto.

Federal spending authority expires at midnight today and failure to extend it will force nearly half the federal work force to go home Tuesday morning and curtail government services. Borrowing authority also lapses this week, which could rattle financial markets.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., went on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley" and said, "If the president would agree to a balanced budget in seven years, then we could make very good progress" in completing the bills.

That sentiment was echoed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," he called for "a letter from the president that said, 'I accept in principle getting to a balanced budget in seven years, not the details, but in principle.'"

White House chief of staff Leon Panetta wasted little time in turning them down.

"That cannot be part and parcel of an agreement" on the short-term bills, he declared on CBS' "Face the Nation," though

Continued Page 12

## Storm creates regional obstacle course

By RICHARD C. TEN WOLDE  
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — The storm that howled through the North Country Saturday and Sunday turned the area's roads from paths of least resistance to obstacle courses.

Winds Saturday evening uprooted trees and snapped telephone poles, blocking roadways, and then as temperatures dropped, the streets became slick with ice and then snow.

Charles Gellers of Plattsburgh was cruising along Route 314 on Cumberland Head in his new car when it slammed into a fallen tree. He was uninjured, but his car had to be towed from the accident, according to police.

Elson Raoquin of Peru also escaped injury Saturday night after he swerved to avoid a falling branch. His car veered from South Junction Road and slammed into a tree to the right of the road.

At the storm's peak, the National Weather Service reported sustained winds of 25 to 40 mph with gusts up to 70 mph.

Almost 1 1/4 inches of rain fell during the storm, swelling area streams and rivers but causing little flooding.

The only reported road closing due to water was True Brook Road in Saranac as a brook washed over the bridge one-tenth of a mile west of No. 37 Road.

State Police recommended motorists use Route 3 or Stan-

dish Road as alternatives.

The falling trees and telephone poles not only blocked roadways, but knocked out power for thousands.

Franklin County, which was hit especially hard, had three crews of three workers cutting and removing trees from county roads. They roamed the countryside from 6 p.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday, dragging dozens of trees from the streets.

Highway Superintendent Richard Sprague said it would take the crews a few days to finish the removal.

As the tree clean-up crews prepared to leave the roads, the county's plows hit the streets to scrape away the six inches of snow that began to fall early

Sunday.

About 1,400 NYSEG customers were powerless in Franklin, Clinton, Essex and Hamilton counties at 8 p.m. Saturday. But by midafternoon Sunday, only about 15 were still without service, according to a NYSEG representative.

The company labored to restore power to the remaining customers by 5 p.m.

In Malone, the winds blew down telephone poles and power lines along Route 11B, closing the road and cutting power to hundreds of customers.

Five crews were still responding to calls in that area late Sunday afternoon.

Continued Page 12



Saturday's high winds felled one tree and snapped the upper trunk of another in the old St. John's Cemetery along U.S. Avenue in Plattsburgh, one of several areas that received damage from the high gusting winds.

Staff Photo/Robin Caudell

### WEATHER

Today, becoming cloudy with a chance of snow during the afternoon. High 30 to 35. Light south wind. Chance of snow 40 percent.



### INDEX

Bridge.....	21	Horoscope.....	18
Business News.....	7	Ann Landers.....	18
Classified.....	20-24	Features.....	6
Comics.....	18	Public Record.....	8,9
Editorial.....	4	Sports.....	14-17
Entertainment.....	10	Weather.....	11

N.Y. Lottery: 8-0-1. WinFour: 4-4-6-1.  
Pick 10: 14-18-23-27-29-30-32-36-39-41-45-46-52-56-59-69-70-73-78-80.  
New England: Pick 3: . Pick 4: .  
Tri-State Cash:

## Security force knew about plot to kill Rabin

By DAN PERRY  
Associated Press Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — In the latest evidence of a stunning intelligence failure, the Shin Bet security agency acknowledged Sunday that it had advance information about the assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In a highly unusual move, the secretive agency sent a fax to Israel's Army radio saying authorities were told of a plot in June by a friend of Yigal Amir, who confessed to shooting Rabin. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the fax.

In other developments Sunday:

• Amir's brother Hagai, appearing in court, said he received weapons from a sergeant in an

elite army unit, who is the seventh person arrested in the killing. A judge ordered Hagai Amir held for 12 more days.

• As the official mourning period ended, more than 200,000 Israelis streamed into Tel Aviv's newly renamed Yitzhak Rabin Square in a defiant replay of the Nov. 4 peace rally where Amir shot Rabin. The demonstrators carried flags, candles, cardboard doves and signs reading "Enough Death." It was believed to be the biggest gathering ever in Israel.

• Israeli troops began pulling out of the West Bank town of Jenin, carrying out the Palestinian self-rule agreement signed by Rabin and Yasser Arafat in September. The pullout is to be done by Monday.

• The ruling Labor Party picked

acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres as its new leader, replacing Rabin.

Meanwhile, the Shin Bet acknowledged that Shlomo Halevy, a friend of Amir, provided an accurate description of the assassin after being told of plans to kill Rabin by a mutual friend.

Halevy told his army commander of the plot but did not reveal Amir's name or say that he knew him, pretending instead that he overheard two men discussing the plot in a bus station bathroom, the Shin Bet said.

Halevy said one of the plotters was 25, short, black-haired, a member of the militant Jewish group Eyal and a student at Bar Ilan University — a description that fits Amir.

Security sources, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said Halevy's information was turned over to the Shin Bet, but after a superficial check, the agency decided to ignore it.

Israel radio reported that Halevy learned about Amir's plot from a Haifa woman, identified as Hila Frank. The radio said she was questioned and released by police Saturday, then went into hiding for fear of retribution.

Theories that Rabin was the victim of a right-wing plot were bolstered Sunday when police told a magistrate's court in Tel Aviv they had evidence linking the detained army sergeant to the assassination.

Hagai Amir, the gunman's 27-year-old brother, told the

Continued Page 12