

# Protesters want president's resignation

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Thousands of Philippine protesters marched through Manila to the presidential palace on Wednesday, carrying a giant effigy of President Joseph Estrada and calling for him to resign over corruption allegations.

“We are calling on Estrada to resign,” leading industrialist Jose Concepcion said.

“He will save the nation from agony if he will immediately step down.”

Estrada has been impeached and faces a Senate trial, but he has refused to resign over allegations that he received millions of dollars in payoffs from illegal gambling and tobacco tax kickbacks.

The accusations, made in early October by provincial governor Luis Singson, have triggered the country’s worst political crisis in more than a decade and prompted dozens of lawmakers to resign from his ruling LAMP party.

Estrada has repeatedly insisted he did not receive “even a centavo” from illegal gambling and is ready to face the impeachment trial. On Tuesday, the Senate said it would begin the trial on Dec. 7.

**NATIONAL**  
LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — Using a bulldozer and a large floodlight, FBI agents scoured a snow-

covered county landfill for tapes containing nuclear weapons data from the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The search Tuesday came amid reports the tapes on which former nuclear scientist Wen Ho Lee downloaded the restricted information were buried in the mounds of garbage.

Albuquerque TV station KOAT reported that agents were looking for tapes Lee threw in the trash at the lab.

“The FBI is conducting a search at the Los Alamos landfill in furtherance of an ongoing investigation,” agent Doug Beldon said.

Neither Beldon nor Justice Department officials would elaborate. A source with knowledge of the case, insisting on anonymity, confirmed the search relates to the Lee investigation.

The search is expected to last several weeks.

After spending nine months in custody, Lee was freed Sept. 13 when he pleaded guilty to one count of illegally downloading restricted data to an unsecure tape. Fifty-eight counts were dropped.

The former nuclear scientist swore he never passed secrets to any unauthorized person and that he disposed of the tapes when his security clearance was revoked last year.

BOSTON (AP) — Federal officials have approved a nearly \$14.1 billion funding plan for the Big Dig, closing a chapter on a fiscal debacle that led to firings and criminal probes of the massive highway project.

The Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Office of Inspector General notified state officials Tuesday that they have accepted the state’s plan to pay for the project.

The financial blueprint, reportedly finished Oct. 1, pins the project’s cost at \$14.075 billion, caps the federal contribution at \$8.549 billion, and sets completion dates for various project stages.

The state also agreed to submit its accounting of project finances to federal regulators yearly.

The state has submitted four financing plans to federal officials in the last year, outlining how it plans to complete the project. This is the first time in two years that federal agencies have approved a top-to-bottom spending plan.

Known officially as the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project, the Big Dig will bury three miles of Interstate 93 beneath downtown Boston. The endeavor, designed to reduce traffic congestion in Boston, is one of the most complicated and expensive road projects in the nation’s history.

# West School gets new boiler

The Goodland School Board approved buying a new boiler for West Elementary School Monday night, accepted a bus driver’s resignation, heard about an honor the district had won and paid some bills.

Meeting at North Elementary, the board took care of some business in between demonstrations by teachers and students.

Members picked the low bid, \$20,860, on a boiler from T&R Weld-

ing Service and Repair of Inman. There were no local bids.

The board paid \$30,000 in bills and heard a report from member Mike Campbell, who represents the district on the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center board.

Campbell said at the board’s last meeting, members hired teacher aides, reviewed bids on buses for the Headstart program and increased salaries for staff.

The school board accepted Don

Crutcher’s resignation as a bus driver.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said he didn’t know why he had quit.

Selby said the district won certificates of merit from the Kansas Association of School Boards for its employee handbook and activity calendar.

He said there were two hundred entries in the contest.

An award is given to the best entry, Selby said, and up to five certificates are awarded to runners-up.

# Task force focuses on water supply

TOPEKA (AP) — A debate over water quality standards has raged across the state for months, but a task force has placed more emphasis on water supply issues.

Gov. Bill Graves’ task force released its recommendations on water policy during a Statehouse news conference Tuesday.

Task force members said the state should establish a deadline for achieving “zero depletion” of its groundwater, meaning that consumption matches or is less than the amount of water replenished each

year.

The commission considered setting 2020 as that deadline but didn’t include any specific date in its report.

The task force also recommended that the state establish regional water districts or “grids” to handle water demands.

It suggested creating new lakes and reservoirs to help meet that demand.

Its members didn’t ignore water quality issues entirely, citing the need to establish statewide standards for the maximum amount of pollut-

ants allowed in Kansas waters.

But task force members made it clear their thinking on water quality issues is in line with Graves and members of his administration.

State officials have been critical of water quality regulations the Environmental Protection Agency proposed for Kansas in July.

Those standards arose from a settlement of a lawsuit against the EPA by two environmental groups, the Sierra Club’s Kansas chapter and the Kansas Natural Resource Council.

# Organize your Christmas shopping

You can get your holiday shopping done in an efficient, enjoyable way if you take an organized approach.

Know what you are looking for before you head for the stores. Make a list of possible gifts for each person on your gift list, as well as price ranges you want to follow, and alternatives in case you can’t find exactly what you’re looking for.

Find ideas at home first by browsing in mail-order and department store holiday catalogs.

Shop when the store is least crowded. Don’t let the holiday rush lead to hasty purchases.

Consider buying one type of present for everyone. Examples include calendars, umbrellas, gloves, sweaters, or magazine subscriptions. Products from local stores, such as Kansas cheese or wheat weavings are also good possibilities.

If time is more crucial than money,



**roxanne burda**

- slice of life

buy as much as possible in the same store or department. However, if you’ve done some comparison shopping first, you may be able to purchase most of your gifts in a store or department where prices are reasonable.

If you come across a possible present but aren’t ready to buy it, jot down what it is and where you saw it. With so much merchandise to view, these details are easily forgotten.

Be practical. Wear comfortable shoes and don’t wear a heavy winter coat you’ll have to lug around if you plan to be inside overheated stores for

hours. Take your own shopping bag or basket to hold small packages.

If you didn’t purchase them after the holiday season last year when they were on sale, be sure to get gift wraps, labels and cards as you buy your gifts.

Keep a list of what you gave to whom so you don’t repeat next year.

Save receipts, along with the name of the person you gave the gift to, in case you need them for exchanges.

If you shop by mail, telephone or Internet, keep copies of your order (address, description and order date) and your canceled check.

Being organized can help you enjoy the holiday season and eliminate some of the stress surrounding this busy time of year.

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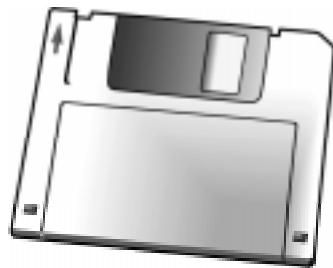
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