

Wheaton sends a message to 2059

By JUSTIN KMITCH
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A huge responsibility has been placed on the shoulders of 5-year-old Caleb Laoang.

When he's 55, Caleb likely will be among the few who remember watching Saturday's burial of Wheaton's time capsule.

So when the time capsule is unearthed for Wheaton's bicentennial anniversary in 2059, Caleb can make sure historians dig in the right spot in front of city hall.

About 50 residents gathered to watch the small box put into the ground. It contained a Wheaton North High School cheerleading uniform, photographs, books written by local authors, a cellular phone and

Time capsule buried to be opened at bicentennial

battery, a variety of items from Wheaton's sesquicentennial anniversary celebration and a letter from Mayor Michael Gresk, including his pay stub, to the future mayor in 2059.

A resident also included a cure for the Chicago Cubs billy goat curse, just in case the Cubs don't win in the next 50 years.

"It's been said that teachers touch the future, so if that's the case, today then anyone who contributed to this time capsule is a bit of a teacher," Gresk said.

"Because aren't we all touching the future by putting our thoughts and ideas and words and artifacts into this

time capsule?"

Before the box was buried, many attendees signed the top of the watertight vault, just one more way to prove they were there 50 years prior.

"I won't be here to see it, I'm sure, but it's neat that my kids or grandkids may be around to see this opened and see I was here to send this message to them," Todd Schletter said. "It's just cool."

In June, the city opened a time capsule from 1959 as part of its yearlong sesquicentennial celebration. That capsule was created to mark Wheaton's 100th anniversary and was originally buried at the old police station site

along Wheaton Avenue. It was unearthed for the first time when the building was demolished in 1992 and reburied at the current police station site along Liberty Drive.

When it was finally opened, the 1959 capsule contained items such as posters, toys and letters.

Alberta Adamson, president and CEO of the Center for History in Wheaton, said the city is still working to track down family members of those who wrote the letters in 1959.

"Will the families who wrote the letters (buried Saturday) still be in town," she asked. "We still haven't located some of the families that the 1959 letters were written to, but we haven't discarded them. There's always hope."



Caleb Laoang, 5, of Wheaton, writes his name on top of the time capsule vault at Wheaton city hall Saturday. The time capsule will be unearthed in 2059.

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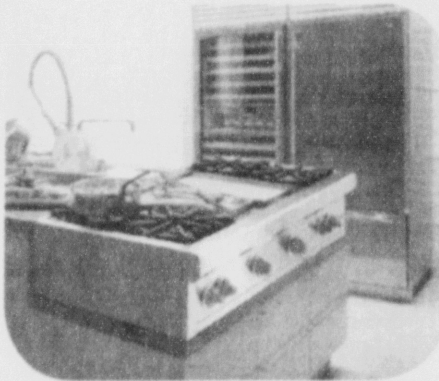
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