



Washington

Secretary of State SAM REED

News Release

94-year-old Aberdeen time capsule opened, preserved

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Olympia– Secretary of State Sam Reed and Aberdeen School District Superintendent Marty Kay today opened a 94-year-old time capsule recently rescued from the fire-destroyed Aberdeen High School.

The contents of the 12-inch copper box, originally buried when the school was built November 5, 1909, revealed turn-of-the-century newspapers, maps, and photos.

“We are pleased to preserve these items for the people of Aberdeen who lost an important piece of history along with the J.M. Weatherwax Building,” said Secretary of State Reed. “Preservation of these historic documents helps safeguard Washington’s government and preserve our state’s written history.”

Eighteen months ago, fire destroyed the 93-year-old main building on the Aberdeen High School campus, but the time capsule, which was lodged in one of the school’s two cornerstones, withstood the fire. School officials have since worked to locate and remove the time capsule.

Members of the Aberdeen Masonic Lodge located the box last Tuesday one month before workers planned to demolish the building.

The contents will be cleaned and frozen, scanned, copied or encapsulated, as needed, at the State Archives and returned to the Aberdeen School District. School officials will work with the museum to display the contents of the box at the Aberdeen Museum of History.

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Media Advisory

Issued: July 18, 2003

A fire rolled through Aberdeen High School leaving behind dust, debris – and the school’s time capsule from 1909. Secretary of State Sam Reed and state archivists will open the box Monday hoping the 94-year-old newspapers, photos and maps withstood the fire and 18 months of being exposed to Washington weather.

Reed will open the capsule and with rubber glove-clad hands remove memories from 1909 at 9 a.m. Monday, July 21 in the conservation lab at the State Archives building, 1129 Washington St. SE in Olympia.