

■ **Fort Knox** from A-6

tory at Fort Knox are 147.3 million ounces. About half of the Treasury's stored gold is kept at Fort Knox.

Has the gold ever been removed? The Mint says only very small quantities have been removed to test the purity of the gold during regularly scheduled audits. Except for these samples, no gold has been transferred to or from the depository for many years. The gold's book value is

\$42.22 per ounce.

Just how secure is Fort Knox?

The depository is very secure. The actual structure and content of the facility is known by only a few, and no one person knows all the procedures to open the vault.

What is known publicly is that the facility was built in 1936 using 16,000 cubic feet of granite, 4,200 cubic yards of concrete, 750 tons

of reinforcing steel and 670 tons of structural steel. The facility is heavily guarded and has broken its strict policy of not allowing visitors only three times.

Has anyone been allowed to see the gold reserves?

In 1974, the US Mint opened the vaults to a group of journalists and a congressional delegation so they could see the gold

reserves. The Treasury secretary allowed the visit after persistent rumors that the gold had been removed. Until then, the only person other than authorized personnel to access the vaults was President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Since then, the vaults have been opened one other time: In 2017, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin visited with Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin and congress-

sional representatives.

Current Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said he would happily arrange an inspection for any senator who is interested in seeing the vaults.

Fort Knox in popular lexicon

The gold depository at Fort Knox has a reputation for being impenetrable, which has gained it a place in popular culture. As early as 1952, a Looney Tunes

cartoon featured Bugs Bunny and Yosemite Sam digging for gold at Fort Knox. Fort Knox has also been featured in the plot of movies such as the 1964 James Bond spy thriller "Goldfinger" and the 1981 comedy "Stripes," which was partially filmed at the post.

■ **Chances** from A-1

to the lifesaving drug. Another planned addition is medicine deactivation pouches, so that folks can effectively neutralize and dispose of their unused opioid medications.

The boxes, which will be climate controlled to keep the Narcan from overheating and going bad, will also contain a QR code that links to a website with the location of other MYTHS boxes. This way, West Carter student Nico DeBord explained, if the first box a person tries is out of Narcan, deactivation pouches, or test strips, folks can see where the next closest box is and visit it.

And the art on these boxes? It follows a graffiti theme, to discourage vandalism, and every box is marked with the image of a phoenix. That fabled bird, which is consumed in fire before being reborn from the ashes, not only fits the MYTHS theme, but represents the second chance that Narcan offers those who have overdosed.

It's a lot of symbolism.

But what isn't symbolic is the impact the opioid epidemic and overdose have had on the lives of these students.

"I grew up in a home with an addict," student

Brody McCleese explained. "I saw her basically just deteriorate. So, I was like, if we can prevent this, if we can prevent more harm, let's do that."

DeBord said it was a concern echoed by the wider community, inside and outside of the school.

"When asking anyone in our town, we would go up and say, 'What do you think the biggest problem here is?' (and) they'd go, 'Drugs and overdoses.' Just because it's so bad around here. So, we asked, 'What if we put Narcan out?' Like, how they do the (little lending libraries) around town, and we kind of developed it from that."

Throughout the process they've figured out the logistics of where to place the boxes – securing permission from private property owners and working with city council to secure permission to place some of their boxes on public property. They've also brainstormed plans for keeping the Narcan within safe temperature ranges, eventually coming up with an idea to equip the boxes with digital thermometers and solar powered fans to facilitate circulation on warm days, or to pull the opiate blocker if temperatures get too hot.

They've also faced some minor pushbacks, from council members and others who have asked questions and expressed concerns about children getting into the Narcan. But DeBord and McCleese say that isn't an issue they worry about – Narcan isn't dangerous if it's administered to someone who hasn't overdosed, resulting in vomiting at worst – at least not as much as the consequences of overdose.

"I've had people in my family die because of it (overdose), and so it's something that affected me a lot when I was little," DeBord said. "If I can prevent any child from going through something similar, by just having that readily available and having them know how to use it, in order to do it properly and save a life, that's really important to me personally."

"We know people are still going to (use drugs)," McCleese added. "So, if we can save their life, to maybe give them that redemption and be able to solve their problems and get away from drug use and addiction, we just saved lives."

DeBord added that the overdose prevention method also seemed the more practical route to take.

"There were two ways we could approach it," DeBord said. "It was preventing overdose and making drug related safety better, or preventing drug use, which we know is going to be incredibly hard to do, and not obtainable at all. So, we felt like we could make more of an impact if we're doing harm reduction, and helping people to be safer, as opposed to stopping the problem altogether. We won't have much success in that."

Helping them to just be safe and survive, though, can give someone another chance to clean up their act for good.

"Coming back to the MYTHS thing, the Phoenix has symbolized rebirth and restart for centuries," DeBord continued, "and the big thing that we hope to do is – if someone overdoses, they have a chance to still survive with the use of Narcan. And overdosing is very scary, and it can often lead people to get clean. We just want them to be able to have that experience that they wouldn't have otherwise. Because at least it's a chance."

It isn't just their parents and older relatives either. Despite seeing firsthand the impact on their parents' and grandparents' genera-

tions, a lot of kids are still willing to experiment.

"It's even bad in our generation," DeBord noted. "It surprised me how many kids in the school do hard drugs, and it's like, if we can help them in any way, that's all we can want."

DeBord and McCleese emphasized that this isn't their project alone, either. They were just the ones with a free period to discuss the project. Other members of the CMPS group include Jordan Richmond, Sawyer Maggard, Skyler Gearhart, Lindsey Stone, and Jadyln Tolliver.

The group's sponsor, Chris Blankenship, explained that CMPS is an outgrowth of the school's academic team, and that there is a competition level to the CMPS as well. They will be judged on their project and presentation at the state level, with an opportunity to continue on to higher levels of competition if they place well. It's also educational on many levels, Blankenship explained, integrating everything from civics and social studies lessons in the students' interactions with government entities, to the engineering aspect of establishing climate control in the boxes, and the tech-

nology aspect of building and maintaining a website to show the locations of other nearby boxes.

"They have gone through the process of dealing with local government, with regulations in the medicine, distribution, and health and human services," Blankenship said. "They've gone through and had to figure out problem solving, as far as what they actually needed, what they're allowed to put out, what is shelf stable, the temperature constraints, and the actual container of things. It evolved quite a bit."

But more important than the competition, for the students, is the outcome. This isn't just another academic exercise for them. They want to save lives. Because, as DeBord and McCleese pointed out, every dose of Narcan represents a life saved, and another chance to rise from the ashes of your old life and pursue a better tomorrow.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

CCA offers martial arts classes

Staff Report
Carter County Times

Starting this evening (March 5) retired police officer, United States Marine, and tenth degree black belt Danny Lane will begin teaching classes in karate and Israeli Krav Maga at Carter Christian Academy in Hithcins. The six week course will run from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. for elementary and middle school students, and from 4:45 to 5:45 for high school students. Classes will be

held on March 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 27, and April 7, with April 9 a demonstration and graduation event.

Those who successfully complete the course will be certified in Level 2 in Krav Maga and a yellow belt in the World Martial Arts Federation, Lane explained.

Lane, who has trained in martial arts for 57 years, including with the legendary Chuck Norris, explained that pre-registration and signature of a liability release is required.

For more information, payment details, and to request documentation, email dannylanemartialartist@gmail.com.

Each class is limited to 20 participants, and the cost for all sessions is \$75 per person. A portion of funds raised will be donated to Carter Christian Academy.

■ **Breathe** from A-5

a cup of coffee and let the sound of nature heal you. A good hot dog matters. Our humanity isn't for sale. You're not going to

fix immigration, and you aren't going to be on a podium arguing against a rival tomorrow, either.

Call your mom. Say hey

to an old friend. Lay on the floor for an extra five with your dog. You're doing your best, and that's good enough.

■ **Newspapers** from A-5

federal and Kentucky constitutions for governments to be required to publish certain matters in the newspaper and not just on government websites. Placing legal notices in newspapers increases transparency, holds public officials accountable, and decreases the risk of mischief by those officials and bureaucrats.

When a legal ad is placed in a newspaper, it is placed in the local newspaper, it is dated, and cannot be changed after the fact. In addition, it is placed on a website managed by the Kentucky Press Association where all legal notices in Kentucky can be found easily at kypublicnotices.com. When the Sun publishes a legal notice, it is in the paper, on our website and on the digital paper.

HB 368 seeks to have entities including county and city governments place public notices on their own websites, yet many have

only one employee, if any, and often can't keep their current websites updated.

As good as the new sites run by the City of Versailles and Woodford County are, they are managed by just one or maybe two employees who have myriad other responsibilities. Is it reasonable to expect a local government, even as good and responsible as we have, to make sure required legal notices are posted and maintained in a timely fashion? Given the risk of mischief, is it worth it?

I suspect some of you know who Al Cross is; he made his name as both a state government reporter for the Courier-Journal where he became a columnist and then as the executive director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky, from where he just recently retired. Al is also considered one of

the most informed, keen and prescient observers of Kentucky politics and is a regular on KET's election night coverage. Al is also a good friend of mine and Ben's, a very good friend and subscriber of the Sun, and someone whom I regularly solicit for his views and thoughts on how we operate.

Here is what Al recently emailed me about HB 368, "All in all, (last week's edition of the Sun) was a newspaper that could be an excellent vest-pocket argument against HB 368, which would lead to the death of some Kentucky newspapers by allowing local governments to post public notices on their websites instead of local newspapers — which once got maybe 7 (percent) to 8 percent of their revenue from public notices but are now likely in the neighborhood of 20 percent."

Well, we aren't 20%, but it's north of 7%.

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