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2240 Van Hill Road

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News Notes

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Cooper, who is expected to run for governor in 2016, told The Associated Press on Oct. 15 that he supports equality for same-sex couples. His personal views, he said, would not prevent him from defending the state in a current lawsuit challenging the state's anti-LGBT constitutional amendment and an adoption ban for same-sex couples.

Cooper's office has said they will not be able to recognize the marriage license applications.

"The State Constitution says that these marriage licenses cannot be issued, and this is the law unless the Constitution is changed or the court says otherwise," Noelle Talley, a Cooper spokeswoman, said in a statement, according to *The Citizen-Times*. "This very issue is the subject of pending litigation against the State of North Carolina."

Equality advocates in North Carolina have praised Cooper's supportive personal remarks.

The North Carolina Family Policy Council the previous week criticized Cooper's upcoming appearance at the Equality North Carolina dinner where he is scheduled to speak on Nov. 9.

full story: goqnotes.com/25476/.

— M.C.

Race raises resources

ASHEVILLE — The Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP) will hold its 2013 Positive Prevention 5K and 12K races on Nov. 3, with proceeds going to expand HIV/AIDS prevention programs throughout 18 counties in Western North Carolina.

The 12K will begin at 7:15 a.m., beginning at Antler Hill Village at the Biltmore Estate, One Lodge St., and traverse through a picturesque route which takes participants past such places as the Biltmore House and the French Broad River. The first half of the race's course ascends one hill, while the second half descends, leveling off to flat terrain.

The 5K will begin at 7:30 a.m. from Antler Hill Village and will parallel the French Broad River using a flat course.

The races will utilize chip timing.

Participants will receive a finishers medal, long-sleeved T-shirt and food from Earthfare. Age group awards will be given to the top three finishers in the following age groups: male and female, in addition to the first male and female finishers overall.

Spectators must purchase a ticket to enter the estate. Cost is \$20 per person. Upgrades are \$25 which includes a tour of the Biltmore House.

There is a cap on the number of runners each race may start, with 250 for the 5K and 550 for the 12K. Space is available on a registration time and date basis up until packet pickup on Nov. 2 at Highland Brewing Company, 12 Old Charlotte Hwy., from 3-6 p.m.

For the safety of racers, no stroller, bikes or dogs are allowed on the course.

info/registration: wncap.org.

— L.M.

It's a spook-tacular benefit

ASHEVILLE — Just Us For All (JUFA) will hold its Halloween night "Night of the Living Queers" on Oct. 31, 10 p.m., at BoBo Pho, 22 N. Lexington Ave.

Enjoy local beers, dancing and great music by DJ Cable. A costume contest and drag show will provide attendees with lots of entertainment.

The event is LGBTQ + Ally Safe Space focused. JUFA provides education on LGBTQ issues, workshops and community events. It even helps to raise funds for gender confirmation surgeries, as well as other local initiatives.

A \$5 contribution at the door is suggested.

info: facebook.com/JUFA.AVL.

— L.M.

South Carolina

Mayor blasted for online slurs

WEST UNION — Mayor Linda Oliver is under fire for sharing her disdain for same-sex marriage. She made comments of Facebook where she used the word "queers" as well.

The post said: "What's it gonna take to get these queers to realize they don't need a piece of paper. God will not bless their union because he plainly speaks against queers in the Bible. Want to cover your queer with insurance? Buy a policy. Want your queer to get your stuff when you die? Make a will."

The posting has subsequently been removed.

USA Today reported that this statement allegedly came after Drew Reisinger, register of deeds for Buncombe County in Asheville, N.C., allowed same-sex couples to apply for a marriage license. The posting even spirited a Recall West Union S.C. Mayor Linda Oliver page. FOX Carolina in Greenville, S.C., reported the news and carries an interview with the mayor.

info: facebook.com.foxcarolina.com.

— L.M.

info: Have news or other information? Send your press releases and updates for inclusion in our News Notes: editor@goqnotes.com.

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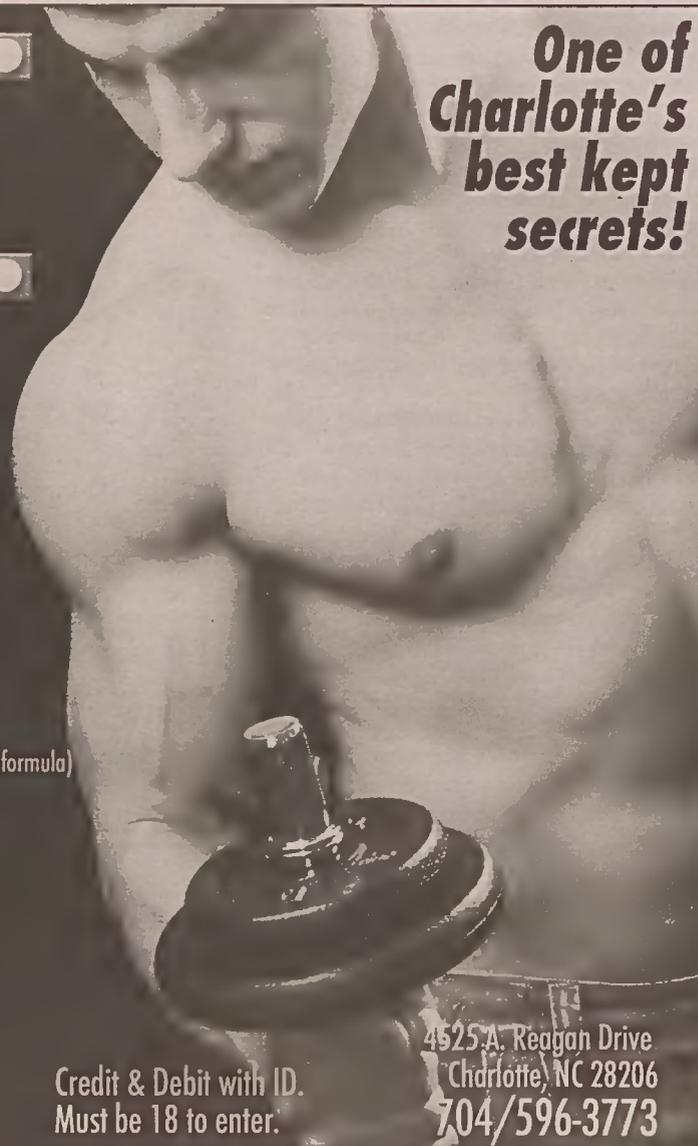
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Just off I-85, take Exit 40.
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