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Young ladies enjoying participating the PhoenixFest Parade and street Fair. See story and photos on page 8.

NAACP head says shooting victim's history doesn't matter

By Emery P. Dalesio

CHARLOTTE (AP) - A restraining order filed against a North Carolina man killed by police last week shouldn't matter because officers who confronted him didn't know about that history before he was shot to death, a civil rights leader said.

Corine Mack, president of the local NAACP chapter, said blacks typically are "demonized" after being killed by police.

"I don't want to hear any of that," Mack said at a news conference Tuesday announcing demands that include implementation of police reforms approved last year.

Court documents say Keith Lamont Scott had a restraining order filed against him a year ago when he threatened to kill his wife and her son with a gun.

Keith Scott's wife filed the order Oct. 5, that law enforcement officers who encounter him should be aware that he "carries a 9mm black" gun. Police have said Scott had a handgun when they approached him at an apartment complex last week.

Officers told Scott repeatedly to drop the weapon and he was shot to death when he didn't follow their orders, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney has said.

The family of Scott, 43, has said he was not armed. Videos released by police and the family are inconclusive, and state authorities are investigating. Protests over the shooting spanned the past week, and some of those protests turned violent. Charlotte streets were mostly quiet Tuesday night for the first time since the shooting on Sept. 20.

Tuesday evening, the police headquarters building had to be evacuated as a bomb squad checked out a suspicious package. A robot removed the package from the building and police said on their Twitter page that the package was taken to a remote location to be rendered harmless.

In the restraining order last fall, Rakeyia Scott sought to keep her husband away because "he hit my 8-year-old in the head a total of three times with his fist," she said in the restraining order.

"He kicked me and threaten to kill us last night with his gun," she said in the order filed in Gaston County, where the couple then lived. "He said he is a 'killer' and we should know that."

Rakeyia Scott checked boxes on the form informing law officers who would serve the restraining order that her husband had neither a permit issued by a county sheriff to buy a handgun nor a state permit to carry a concealed handgun, which requires a criminal background check. She said he worked as a mall security guard.

When deputies went to serve the restraining order two days after it was filed, Scott had already moved to South Carolina, where he has family. About a week after that, Rakeyia Scott filed a separate court notice voluntarily dismissing the order, saying: "He is no longer a threat to me and my family."

In a video released last week capturing the moments before and after Scott was shot by police, Rakeyia Scott can be heard telling officers: "Don't shoot him! He has no weapon."

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police said they found Scott's DNA and fingerprints on a handgun recovered at the scene and that he was wearing an ankle holster when he was killed.

Police released a photo of a small, black handgun they said was recovered from the scene of Scott's shooting on Sept. 20. Police have not described the gun in detail, but printing on the side of the barrel said it was a Colt Series 80 Mustang .380 caliber, which shoots a 9mm bullet, according to Steven Howard, a firearms consultant in Lansing, Michigan, who has testified as an expert witness in court cases.

It's not clear if the gun mentioned in the restraining order is the same one police said they recovered.

North Carolina could provide Clinton knockout over Trump

By Thomas Beaumont

RALEIGH (AP) - Republican Donald Trump can do little to stop Democrat Hillary Clinton from winning the presidency if she carries North Carolina, where their close race reflects the national liabilities of both candidates.

Trump is struggling with conservative Democrats, especially women in the big and booming suburbs of Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham, who've long been part of the GOP's winning formula in North Carolina.

Clinton has her own worries: Younger voters who helped Barack Obama win the state in 2008 and come close in 2012 are far more hesitant to back her.

In a scenario playing out across the most contested states, Clinton's pursuit of new supporters is aided by a huge, data-driven ground force in North Carolina, while Trump is sticking with his come-what-may plan.

"Both candidates have problems here," said Paul Shumaker, an adviser to U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who is seeking re-election. "But I think the Clinton people are more attuned about fixing their problems than Trump's are."

Clinton, in a visit Sunday to Charlotte, addressed congregants at a black church less than two weeks after the police-involved shooting death of a black man. The shooting led to two nights of violent protests and a debate over race relations.

"We've got to take action. We've got to start now, not tomorrow. Not next year, now," Clinton said.

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Judicial Candidates Vie For State's High Courts

By Cash Michaels
Contributing writer

As the pivotal November 8th general election draws near, with Early Voting beginning Thursday, October 20th and ending Saturday, Nov. 5th, African-American voters have a large slate of candidates vying for statewide judicial seats to consider.

With over 26 years on the North Carolina bench, Wake Superior Court Judge Michael Morgan, a Democrat, is running to oust incumbent state Senior Supreme Court Associate Robert H. Edmunds Jr., a Republican for an eight-year term. If Judge Morgan were to win the Edmunds seat, that would immediately shift the balance on the 4-3 Republican-majority court.

Judge Morgan would also join Associate Justice Cheri Beasley as the second African-American serving on the state's seven-member High Court, and the court's only black male.

"Supreme Court justices review the courts' records that are generated in the lower courts. They are a reviewing court to see what errors have been committed potentially in the courts below," he says.

Morgan has served as state administrative law judge for five years; district court judge for ten years; and his current position of superior court judge for eleven years.

A native of Cherry Point, NC, Mike Morgan is the oldest of five children. He

graduated from New Bern public schools. Morgan got his B.A. in both History and Sociology from Duke University in 1976. He earned his Juris Doctor Degree with honors from North Carolina Central University in 1979. From 1983 to 1989, Morgan was an assistant state Attorney General in the NC Dept of Justice. From 1989 to 1994, he served as a NC administrative law judge; from 1994 to 2004 a district court judge; and from 2005 to the present a Wake County superior court judge.

People having trouble getting new Smithsonian museum passes

WASHINGTON (AP) - People are facing long waits and error messages on a ticket site as they try to get passes to the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The museum has planned to begin online distribution Oct. 3 of more timed-entry passes for the first three months of 2017.

The Smithsonian has tweeted that it's looking into the problem.

The Smithsonian began offering passes in late August for opening day and beyond, but by the time of the museum's dedication ceremony on Sept. 24, passes for all the available timeslots had already been distributed.

A limited number of same-day passes are available first-come, first-served at the museum.

"This [NC Supreme Court] seat must be guaranteed to be fair and impartial, and the fact that I've been elected and re-elected by the great citizens of Wake County shows that I have that capacity," Judge Morgan, who proudly adds that he has been rated high for his professionalism and integrity by his legal peers, says.

Wake County trial attorney Abraham Penn Jones, who previously served as a Superior Court judge for many years, is vying for the NC Court of

"While there is an abundance of legal talent in our state, I believe it would be difficult to find a candidate with the extent of my experience, say Jones.

Jones served on the bench in the Tenth Judicial District from 1995 to 2012, presiding over civil and criminal trials among other duties. Previous to that, Jones headed up his own law practice for five years after working as an associate at Adams, McCullough and Bear Law Firm from March 1987 to May 1990.

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Wake Superior Court Judge Michael Morgan

East Carolina University band members kneel during anthem

GREENVILLE (AP) - About a dozen members of the East Carolina University marching band took a knee during the playing of the national anthem prior to the school's football game against the University of Central Florida.

WITN in Greenville reports (<http://bit.ly/2dhkUrU>) the band members took a knee before Saturday's kickoff. Some band members played their instruments while on a knee, while others didn't play at all.

When the band took the field for halftime, it was met with boos.

ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton issued a statement saying that while the school acknowledges the disappointment felt by fans, he urged them to act with respect for each other's views.

The movement began when San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick refused to stand for the anthem before preseason games, citing racial injustice and police brutality.

Obama welcomes relatives of 1936 African-American Olympians

By STEPHEN WHYNO

WASHINGTON (AP) - Relatives of Jesse Owens and America's 17 other black athletes from the 1936 Olympics were welcomed to the White House on Thursday by President Barack Obama for the acknowledgement they didn't receive along with their white counterparts 80 years ago.

Along with the relatives of the 1936 African-American Olympians, gloved-fist protesters Tommie Smith and John Carlos and members of the 2016 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams met the president and first lady Michelle Obama. Obama congratulated the Rio athletes, thanked Smith and Carlos for waking up Americans in 1968 and praised 1936 Olympians who made a statement in front of Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany.

After running down a list of accomplishments of U.S. athletes in Rio, Obama singled out some people who "paved the way" for the current diverse Olympic team, including Owens, Smith and Carlos.

Owens winning four gold medals and being snubbed by Hitler is a piece of American history, but Obama made sure to note that the accomplishments at the 1936 Berlin Olympics weren't just about him.

"It was other African-American athletes in the middle of Nazi Germany under the gaze of Adolf Hitler than put a lie to notions of racial superiority - whooped 'em and taught them a thing or two about democracy and taught them a thing or two about the American character," Obama said. "We're honored to have many of their families here today." (Continued On pPage 13)