

Waynesville, said Chief Deputy Jimmy Parton

This morning, a suspect was arrested in Haywood County, Parton said. He provided no details.

Authorities did not release the victim's names, but a neighbor, Rita Messer, said they were Cora and Earl Phillips, a couple in their 70s, their son Eddie, 40; their daughter-in-law, Mitzi, 42; and their granddaughter Katie, a Waynesville Middle School student.

"They're good people, they were churchgoing people, they never harmed nobody," Ms. Messer told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "... It's awful, you ain't

and operated a beauty shop in her home, relatives said.

Neighbors said the victims were shot shortly after returning home from a local fair.

Sheriff's officials said two suspects were seen leaving the victims' home in a car. They were described as white men between the ages of 19 and 25.

Ms. Messer said her brother, Danny Ray Messer, was going to the store Thursday night when he saw Earl Phillips' truck overturned on an embankment. Thinking the truck had rolled out of the Phillips' gravel driveway, Messer went to the family's

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## Widow gets \$88,969, lawyers \$104,474 in jailhouse suicide

By JONATHAN WATSON  
Staff Writer

CONCORD — A widow whose husband hanged himself in the Cabarrus County Jail will receive \$88,969 from an out-of-court settlement to her law suit against Sheriff Robert Canaday.

April Combs' husband, Franklin Combs, hanged himself in his jail cell on March 29, 1998, after Kannapolis Police arrested him at her request. She sued in July, claiming jailer Barry Bruce neglected to ensure her husband's safety while he was in jail. Bruce was also named in the suit.

The settlement, approved by Judge William Osteen Sr. Sept. 21, also provides \$35,185 to each of Franklin Combs' three children and \$104,474 to April Combs' attorney, Neal Rodgers of Charlotte law firm Tim L. Harris & Associates.

"It is my hope that a byproduct of plaintiff's lawsuits such as (April Combs') will have the effect of making local sheriff department per-

sonnel and their medical providers more attune to the needs of pre-trial detainees and inmates," Rodgers said.

Canaday said Thursday that his officers did nothing wrong, and that the settlement was not an admission of liability on his part or the part of the department.

"That settlement was something that the attorneys and insurance companies agreed on."

The jailers on duty the night Franklin Combs came to jail followed accepted procedures and established policies, Canaday said. "There's only so much the officers can do to prevent a suicide," he said.

April Combs called Kannapolis police on March 28, 1998 and said her husband had been drinking, and that the two of them were fighting. Her father tried to get Franklin Combs to leave, but he wouldn't, she said.

He was brought to the jail at about 9 p.m.

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# Massacre by G.I.s report

Caldera said he would recommend further action if necessary, but cautioned against "speculating at this point what the consequences would be" if details of the

History "found nothing to substantiate the claims." That was in response to the latest appeal from survivors and victims, which had been quietly rejected as unsubstantiated

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Saturday: Mostly sunny. High in the lower 80s.  
 Friday night: Clear. Low 55 to 60.  
 Saturday: Mostly sunny. High in the lower 80s.  
 Sunday: Partly sunny. Low around 60. High around 80.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. High in the lower 70s.  
 Saturday night-Monday: Dry. Lows 45 to 50. Highs in the lower 70s.  
 Tuesday: A chance of rain. Low in the lower 50s. High in the upper 60s.

Tuesday: Chance of showers. Lows in the 50s except to lower 60s. Highs in the 70s to around 80 except 60s in the mountains.

1999  
 Sun  
 Sun  
 High  
 Low

## Security

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worry about. A lot of the race on't see it, but they are there. We feel like we can handle those kinds of things.

"We always have all types of people here so that the race fans feel comfortable when they are here," Wheeler said.

Major Dennis Andrade of the Concord Police Department who was at the Speedway after the bomb was received confirmed the

there was a bomb threat," said Andrade. "and it is being investigat-

the federal agency investigating Lowe's bombings is not involved in the speedway threat investigation.

"I am aware there was a threat," said Sergeant Earl Woodham, of the Concord Police Department.

"ATF is not involved; telephoned bomb threats happen often."

"I did confirm Thursday that the bombs found in Lowe's were made by the same perpetrators."

Asheboro, site of the first bombing at a Lowe's store, police confirmed that investigators are probing possible links between the bombings and the Lowe's truck crash on May 1.

## Family

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house, an old, green, ranch-style house sitting just off I-40.

## Widow

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She told the arresting officers she was worried because her husband was threatening to kill himself, she said. She also called the jail at least twice to tell them he was suicidal.

At the jail, officers took Franklin Combs' belt and shoes away from him and placed him in a cell with a surveillance camera.

However, April Combs' lawsuit said, Franklin Combs was not placed on suicide watch, and he was provided with sheets and blankets.

Canaday, who would not comment further on the settlement Thursday, said in March 1998 that after April Combs called, Franklin Combs was placed in a special cell, watched and checked throughout the night.

Officers checked the cell at 3:31, Canaday said, and Franklin Combs appeared to be asleep under sheets. When they checked at 3:38, however, they found that he had used the sheets to hang himself.

Officers cut him down, performed CPR, and took him to the hospital, Canaday said.

## Massacre

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South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Chul-kyun, who said officials would "try to verify the truth of all related things concerning this case." He said any further action would be decided after

## Drop Sites

Area church groups, businesses and civic organizations are collecting money and items for victims of Hurricane Floyd's flooding in the eastern part of the state.

Items needed include:

- Non-perishable food including breakfast bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, non-refrigerated juices and drinks, canned goods, ready-to-eat non-perishable meals, can openers

- Cleaning supplies including disinfectants, mops, buckets, brooms, bleach

- Personal hygiene items including toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors

- Bottled water, 20-ounce bottles, as well as larger sizes

- Paper products including paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic utensils, towels, toilet tissue, feminine products

- Baby care items including diapers, wipes, baby food

- Pet supplies

- New blankets

- Note — most collection points are not accepting clothing. However, new underwear still in the store packaging is needed.

Other drop-off points in the area include:

- Concord Mills, along with Cabarrus County and Terminal Trucking will hold a flood relief drive Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the mall parking lot.

- Southeastern Packaging, 2200 Mailberry Road, Harrisburg, collecting daily through Oct. 5.

- China Grove Police Department, collecting items Monday through Friday 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Alderman Don Webb in charge. For details call 857-2466. No clothing. Will accept furniture.

- The Salvation Army will receive items at 216 Paterson Ave., Concord, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- American Red Cross, 167 Union Street South, Concord, accepting monetary donations, the local phone number is 282-9722 or call 1-800-HELPER NOW.

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