

## Authorities Dig Up Smithey Road to Look for Human Remains

Written by Adam Hicks

Tuesday, 23 June 2009 07:34

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As we reported nearly a month ago, Freddie Hammer pled guilty to the murder of three men at a Christmas tree farm in Grayson County, Virginia. Monte Mitchell of the Winston-Salem Journal reports authorities are now looking for the body of another victim Hammer is believed to have killed.

Mitchell reports investigators with the Ashe County Sheriff's Office and the State Bureau of Investigation are tearing up part of Smithey Road in Crumpler looking for the remains of Hammer's nephew, Jimmy Blevins.

Blevins is from Ashe County and has been missing for 28 months.

The Journal reports authorities believe Hammer killed Blevins and buried him under the road, which was dirt at the time Blevins went missing.

An eyewitness told authorities Blevins left his home with Hammer the night he went missing, and another eyewitness claims to have seen Hammer operating heavy construction equipment near the roadway.

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Mitchell reports authorities are working on a hypothesis that Hammer killed his nephew and buried him under the dirt road at night while DOT crews were working on widening the road. Crews are then believed to have paved over the man's remains.

Although Hammer pled guilty to the murders at the Christmas tree farm, he denies killing Blevins.