

Apparent suicide's body found Monday in woods off U.S. 31 South in Austin

Written by Marty Randall

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The body of a man from Fishers, Ind., was discovered by searchers in a woods on the far south side of Austin on Monday evening, June 23.

The remains of Joshua P. Meibeyer, 33, were found after a couple had reported an apparently abandoned car parked behind a small building on the southwest corner of U.S. Highway 31 South and York Road. The car's windows were down and its trunk was open, the couple said in the original call made just before 6 p.m. that Monday.

Austin Patrolman Greg Green and Reserve Officer Robert Hickman went to the site to begin the investigation. What they found was disturbing: On the car's passenger seat was a large box cutter covered in what appeared to be dried blood. There was blood on the vehicle's doors as well, and officers quickly found a bloody rag behind the vehicle and a cell phone left in the car.

The car had apparently been parked behind the building since Saturday, June 21.

Officer Hickman began attempting to trace the owner, listed as Meibeyer, by looking at the cell phone's recent activity. Missed calls were listed as coming from the man's mother, who also lives in Fishers. When Officer Hickman called the woman, she told him that her son had a history of alcohol abuse. Meibeyer had left Fishers several days prior to go visit a relative in Austin, Tx., his mother said. The two officers did a cursory search of the immediate area for the missing man but failed to find him. Deputy Rex Herald arrived to assist as did Sheriff Dan McClain and Chief Deputy Don Campbell. Several firemen with the Jennings Township Volunteer Fire Department responded after a request was made for personnel to search the nearby woods. A unit with Scott County EMS was placed on stand-by, with EMS staff arriving to assist in search efforts.

Meibeyer was located about 50 to 75 yards from the vehicle. His death was ruled a suicide by hanging, stated Scott County Coroner Jerry Buchanan. The man had apparently first tried to slash his wrists with the box cutter.

Austin Police Chief Donald Spicer turned the secured scene over to investigators with the Indiana State Police, Sellersburg post. Following the investigation, the body was transported to

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the Buchanan Funeral Home in Austin.

The county coroner said that family members made arrangements for the remains to be taken to an Indianapolis funeral home.