

VIRGINIA NEWS

Family creates Web site for former Va. woman missing since July

08/14/2007

Associated Press

The family of a woman who has not been seen since the remains of an infant were found in her burned-out home created a Web site to bring in tips on her whereabouts.

Joey Lynn Offutt, 33, of Sykesville, hasn't been seen since a fire destroyed her home July 12.

On the Web site — <http://findjoey.org> — Offutt's family writes that they have reason to believe she may have been missing since the day before the fire.

Offutt's red Saturn coupe, which had Virginia license plates, was found July 16 in State College, about 70 miles east of the home she rented in Sykesville, authorities said. Offutt previously lived in Warrenton, Va.

The family said on the Web site that they believe the remains found in the fire could be those of Offutt's 6-week-old son. Authorities haven't been able to confirm the identity of the remains and autopsy results are not complete, state Trooper Bruce Morris said Tuesday.

No charges have been filed related to the fire or the infant remains.

Offutt's family said she had two other children, ages 2 and 9, who were not home at the time of the fire. They are safe and staying with relatives, Morris said.

Morris said police were still trying to find Offutt, primarily out of concern for her welfare.

"That's the big issue," Morris said. "She's disappeared from the planet."