



Posted on Wed, Jul. 18, 2007

Autopsy to tell whether baby is missing woman's

By Pete Bosak

Investigators continue to look for a woman with State College ties who is missing after a fire destroyed her Jefferson County residence while they await autopsy results to determine the identity of an infant found in the burned-out building.

Police are looking for Joey Lynn Offutt, 33, whose 1994 Saturn coupe was found by State College police Monday on Waupelani Drive, near where she once had an apartment.

It is still unclear whether Offutt -- who had a 6-week-old boy -- had something to do with the fire at 4 a.m. Thursday that destroyed the Sykesville residence. The body of an infant was found in the remains of the building.

Without the autopsy results, troopers cannot say whether the infant is Offutt's son.

"Whether she was directly involved in this or if she was abducted, investigators are chasing that all down right now," said state police Trooper Bruce A. Morris, public information officer for Troop C.

"It's almost like she's fallen off the face of the planet."

State police are appealing to the public for help find Offutt, saying it's possible she herself is a crime victim.

"I'm confident this case is going to be resolved," Morris said. "She's the key to this whole thing."

Offutt is a white woman, 5 feet 3 inches tall with a thin build, brown hair and brown eyes.

She is officially a missing person and state police have entered her into the National Crime Information Center as such.

Anyone with information on her whereabouts is urged to contact state police at DuBois at 371-4652.

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