

Maura Murray's family launches website

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HANSON — Many people in town are familiar with the Feb. 9, 2004 disappearance of W-H graduate Maura Murray. But did you know that her record in the two-mile run stood at WHRHS for 16 years?

It's the kind of personal portrait her family would like more to see as they launched a new website, mauramurraymissing.org, dedicated to her memory and bringing her home, on her 38th birthday, Monday, May 4.

"It's a tribute to Maura and we thought it was fitting to launch it on her birthday," Maura's sister Julie Murray said in a telephone interview from her Virginia home Monday afternoon. "There's some pictures that have not been made public before, but my favorite part of the website is the little anecdotes for each

picture."

She said a lot of the photos publicized in the media over the years since Maura's disappearance have been the same handful of images.

The site offers the public never before seen photos of Maura, a repository of news reports dating back to 2004, and an opportunity for people interested in the case to get to know Maura up close and personal.

Another feature is a blog post that will be regularly updated as a way for the family to put out information to keep the community informed. A contact tab will allow site visitors to communicate with the family, as well as a contact tab that provides email updates on important case developments when and if they come out.

A tip area will provide a place for people to provide

new information.

"As we honor what would be Maura's 38th birthday, we believe now more than ever she will be found, brought home, and those responsible for her disappearance will be brought to justice," said Julie Murray in a press release about the site launch. "Our new website is a tribute to Maura and a resource for the public who keep her memory alive and play an instrumental role in searching for her."

Julie Murray said the family receives information all the time from people interested in the case.

"That's part of the catalyst behind why we wanted to launch a website from the family's standpoint," she said. "Maura's case is huge. It's one of the most highly visible missing person cases in the world, actually, and with

that comes a lot of disinformation."

She described part of the website's mission as harnessing the power of the community by giving them a resource of more accurate information about Maura, the case and updates from the family and people they trust through a single source.

"There's so many different outlets and there's spinoff groups who report that they represent the family, but we actually don't know anybody in the groups," she said. While most people mean well and want to help find her sister, Julie Murray said the site is a way for the family to provide

the most accurate information to the public, while recognizing the case would not still be visible if not for the public's support.

It also gives the family a measure of control in a case painfully lacking in evidence.

"There's a lot of speculation and there's a lot of wild theories," she said. "But wild theories are just that. Without any kind of support behind them we could spend months and months tracking down a lead that's just nothing."

Julie Murray also said the site will introduce Maura to the growing number of people new to town, who might not be familiar with her story.