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DOTHAN EAGLE

Ozark abduction suspect returned to Alabama

Suspect's bail set at \$850,000

BY MATT ELOFSON
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Prosecutors called an Ozark man a danger

to the community and a flight risk during a court hearing on felony charges filed against him involving the al-

legedly sexually as- tending both victims. David saulted both victims. David saulted both victims.

Luverne Pitts abducted a woman and an 8-year-old girl from their home at gunpoint, then took them to a remote wooded area where he allegedly sexually as-

Proseutors also alleged Pitts threatened to kill both victims before he fled to South Florida. Lawyers addressed District Court Judge Stanley Garner Jr. during Pitts' first appearance in

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Pitts

Suspect

From Page 1A

with two felony counts first-degree kidnapping, first-degree rape, first-degree burglary, sex abuse of a child under the age

of 12, first-degree theft of property and felony first-degree criminal mischief.

Attorney David Robinson, who represented Pitts in court, told the judge his client has lived in the local area his entire life,

and had no prior felony convictions. The abduction happened on July 24. Afterward, Pitts allegedly fled to Florida. Ozark Police Chief Tony Spivey previously told the *Dothan Eagle* that off-

cers with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office took Pitts into custody on Monday, July 28. Officers took Pitts to the Palm Beach County jail. Spivey said Ozark police investigators arrested Pitts six weeks later because

Pitts refused to waive extradition back to Alabama. "We had to bring him on a governor's warrant," Spivey said. "If someone refuses extradition, it's just the procedure to bring him back to the state."

See **SUSPECT**, Page 2A