

# Authorities seek man wanted for torture, willful abuse of child

By Michelle Mann

mmann@southeastsun.com

A Troy man is being sought on charges of torture in connection with a five-year-old child.

Dale County Sheriff's Public Information Officer Capt. Mason Bynum said June 2 that Johnny James



**Johnny James  
Jones**

Jones, 47, is charged with torture, willful abuse of child under 18 years of age by a responsible person.

Warrants for Jones' arrest have been turned over to U.S. Marshalls, Bynum said.

According to Bynum, Dale County Sheriff's deputies and members of the Ariton Fire and Rescue Squad were dispatched to an Ariton residence in response to reports of an unresponsive five-year-old.

The child was transported to the Dale Medical Center Emergency Room, where the juvenile was found to have a blood alcohol content of almost four times over the legal limit to operate a vehicle in Alabama.

"Through the course of our investigation our investigators discovered that the suspect and the juvenile attended a party at a nearby residence," Bynum said. "During the party, witnesses stated that the suspect allowed the juvenile to consume a large quantity of alcohol."

Bynum said that reports are that once witnesses at the party noticed the child's condition, Jones left and dropped the child off at a neighbor's house and then fled the area.

Bynum said authorities believe Jones had assistance in leaving the area and is thought to be in the Troy, St. Petersburg, Fla., or Panama City, Fla., area.

Anyone with information about Jones is asked to call the DCSO at (334) 774-2335.