



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

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**From:** Corporal Wendy McGinnis  
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

**Re:** Panhandler Arrested for Attempted Strong Armed Robbery

**Date:** January 10, 2012

**Case Number:** 2012-01010

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**Suspect:**  
David Alan Bales, w/m, DOB: 09-08-62  
7410 Grove Rd  
Brooksville, Florida 34613

On January 09, 2012, at approximately 6:00 p.m. a female called 911 to report that a white male had just attempted to steal her purse in the area of Chrystal Dodge on Cortez Blvd. The victim gave a description of a subject, and a vehicle that matched the description of David Bales and his van. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office had recently taken three other reports where David Bales was identified as a subject who was panhandling at a local gas station and appeared to be attempting to lure women to the back of his van (Cases 11-40842, 12-00076 and 12-00658). While investigating the attempted strong armed robbery, deputies assisting in the investigation were able to locate David Bales in the area. At that time the victim positively identified him as the man who attempted to steal her purse.

The victim advised that she had stopped her vehicle on the service road in order to get her cell phone charger. When she exited her vehicle, the suspect (David Bales) pulled his vehicle up behind hers and approached her from behind. He told the victim that he was from Georgia and needed cash in order to get gas for his day labor job in Lutz. She told him "no" and attempted to get back into her vehicle. The suspect then attempted to grab her purse, which was sitting on the vehicle center console. As he reached past her, his hand hit her in the face. She stated that she

was in fear and pushed him away while screaming for help. The suspect quickly ran back to his vehicle and fled the area.

Since she would not give him money, the victim advised that she had no doubt that he was attempting to grab her purse. During an interview by detectives, David Bales denied having asked anyone for money at anytime that day. He did confirm that he has asked women on several occasions for cash. David advised that he normally shows women his ID, tells them he is from Georgia, and says he needs money for gas to get to a job.

David Bales was placed under arrest for a robbery by sudden snatching and transported to the county jail where he is being held on a \$5000 bond. Other than this incident, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office is unaware of any recent criminal activity committed by David Bales. The Sheriff's Office, however, would like to speak with anyone who may have been approached by David Bales asking for money. If anyone has been approached by David Bales as he was panhandling, and has not already reported the incident, they are asked to please contact Detective Gray at 352-754-6830 or [igray@hernadosheriff.org](mailto:igray@hernadosheriff.org).



Photo taken 01/09/12



Photo taken 06/07/2009

**David Alan Bales, w/m, DOB: 09-08-62**