



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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From: Denise M. Moloney  
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Re: Deputies Arrest Man for Battering Several Strangers – 2022-36942

Date: December 13, 2022

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On 12-12-2022 just before noon, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the Mid-Florida Credit Union, located at 11098 Spring Hill Drive in Spring Hill regarding a Battery.

Upon arrival, deputies met with the victim, an adult female, who was a customer at the credit union. The victim told deputies she exited the credit union and began walking to her vehicle. As she did so, a male, later identified as Devin Wilbanks, walked by her and punched her in the forehead. Wilbanks continued walking and left the parking lot headed northbound on Mariner Boulevard.

The victim, a resident of New York, stated she did not know Wilbanks and had never seen him before. Prior to the Battery, Wilbanks did not make any threats or statements to the victim.

Deputies observed a swollen contusion on the victim's forehead.

Moments after committing the Battery at Mid-Florida Credit Union, Wilbanks proceeded to the Circle K, located at 11091 Spring Hill Drive.

After receiving several 9-1-1 hang-ups from the store, operators were able to make contact with an employee. The employee advised a male was inside the store "hitting people" and had just fled on foot.

Upon arrival, deputies made contact with the victim, an adult male store employee. The victim was bleeding from the forehead, face, and mouth.

The victim told deputies a male, later identified as Wilbanks, entered the store and began "swinging his fists" at a female employee and tried to hit several customers who were inside the store. Wilbanks then went behind the counter and "cornered" two employees. The male employee attempted to restrain Wilbanks in an effort to prevent additional batteries.

Wilbanks broke free and proceeded to punch various items and displays throughout the store.

Wilbanks then punched a female customer in the face and placed her in a choke-hold. The male employee attempted to intervene and was once again punched in the face, causing a large cut between his eyes.

Wilbanks then fled the store, headed westbound on foot.

All parties in the store told deputies they did not know Wilbanks.

Moments later, as Wilbanks walked westbound on Spring Hill Drive, he encountered an adult male who was sitting in the driveway of his residence. Wilbanks swung at the victim, hitting him in the face.

Again, Wilbanks left the area on foot.

The victim stated he did not know Wilbanks and assumed he was approaching to ask for directions.

Deputies located Wilbanks at a bus stop on Spring Hill Drive near the library. After being identified by the victims, **Devin Ray Wilbanks DOB/04-05-1999** was placed under arrest, after a brief struggle with deputies. Wilbanks was charged as follows:

- Battery (3 counts)
- Simple Assault (2 counts)
- Burglary w/Assault or Battery
- Burglary Unoccupied Conveyance
- Resist Arrest w/o Violence.

Later in the day, a Vehicle Burglary was reported in the area where the batteries occurred. Video surveillance revealed the suspect was Wilbanks. He was charged accordingly.

Wilbanks was uncooperative with the investigation and refused to provide a statement and/or reason for committing the offenses.

### *The Office of Sheriff:*

*The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the*

*ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.*

*Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.*