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## **Second Man Pleads Guilty in Hotel Robbery**

The second of two men charged with breaking into a local hotel and robbing one of its employees pled guilty in New Hanover County Superior Court on Thursday. Dustin Wilburn, age 39, will serve between 7 and 9.3 years in prison for his role in the incident that occurred on March 27, 2025, at the Suburban Extended Stay Suites on Eastwood Road. His co-defendant, Noah Hite, pled guilty last November.

Wilmington police responded to the hotel around 6:00 a.m. and spoke with the employee who reported the robbery. He told officers that he heard a loud bang at a rear door that was normally used by the staff. When he went to investigate, he discovered that two masked men had entered the building. The men held the victim at knifepoint while demanding money and access to the hotel's safe. The suspects ultimately removed the safe, took the victim's phone and wallet along with snacks and change before fleeing on foot. Employees at the nearby Home Depot witnessed the two men struggling with the safe as they made their way to the alley behind that business. Officers quickly apprehended Wilburn in the woods behind Home Depot and eventually caught Hite after a short foot chase. Items taken during the robbery were found on both men.

Wilburn pled guilty to Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, Second-Degree Kidnapping and Communicating Threats.



Dustin Wilburn