

AROUND TOWN



Chief
Jim Crace

Commanders
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective Bureau
Jeff Dwyer
Jake Williams

Officers
Jason Salo
Tim Battaglia
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Olivia Gottschald
Jonathan Stracek
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse

Clerical
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson

K-9
Tuuko
Jack



During the week of 09/24/23 to 09/30/23, the Hermantown PD had 200 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Road Rage

On September 24th, 2023 at 1030 hours, officers were dispatched to a call back request in regards to a road rage incident on the Haines Road in Hermantown. The caller, a 22-year-old man, stated that he and his girlfriend were driving northbound on Miller Trunk Hwy towards Hermantown and a small car began tailgating them. The man stated that the car was uncomfortably close and he could not see their headlights. He also stated that the driving conditions were poor due to heavy rain.

The man stated that they made a turn off of the highway to get away from this vehicle. They came to a stop at a stop sign, and it appeared the suspect driver was following them and chasing them down. Once stopped, the suspect determined to be male exited his vehicle and approached the caller's truck yelling and screaming at them. The caller stated that after a few minutes, the unknown male got into his vehicle and left. He did not get a license plate.

Fight

On 09/29/2023 at 2141 hours, officers were dispatched to Walmart in Hermantown for three persons that were physically fighting. The caller reported there were a total of three people and there were no weapons involved. Officers were in the area and observed a white male wearing a grey hoodie talking with two store staff near the exit of the store which was passed all last points of sale.

Officers made contact with the 39-year-old male who pointed at two younger males near the entrance of the self-checkout and explained that they bumped into him while he was walking down the aisle. The man stated he turned around and told the two males "what did you do that for, you just bumped into me." It was noted that the man was out of breath and amped up as he was explaining the situation.

Officers asked the male for his identification and he stated he didn't have it on him. The man said he punched one of the males after they charged him as they started exchanging more words. The man was clear that he didn't want to press any charges. Officers again tried to identify the male, and officers began to question if he was giving a false name due to hesitation when answering basic questions like middle name and date of birth.

During the conversation, a female came and stood by the man and they appeared to be together. The 38-year-old woman explained she saw the two other males "picking on" the man and added that the man tried to walk away but the other males kept aggressing him and one of the males spit on him.

Dispatch advised that the name and information the man gave to officers wasn't coming back with any matches, and the woman's name came back with multiple warrants for her arrest out of St. Louis County. During her arrest, it was found she stole from the store approximately \$30.37 worth of

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merchandise. During transport she also admitted to having fentanyl concealed inside her shoe. While pulling in to jail, the female put tinfoil in her mouth which resulted in her needing to be taken to the hospital. Officers later picked her up from the hospital and she was taken to jail on her warrants.

The male eventually did give officers the correct name and explained he knew he had a warrant. Officers were also able to determine that this man was the primary aggressor after reviewing video footage from the store. The man was taken into custody and was charged with 5th Degree Assault and False Name to Police.

Traffic Accident

On September 26, 2023 at 1531 hours, officers were dispatched to an accident near 3500th block of Stebner Road. Officers arrived on scene and located both involved vehicles. Vehicle 1, driven by a 51-year-old man, was rear ended by Vehicle 2, driven by a 43-year-old woman, as they were stopped and waiting to make a left turn into their driveway. Vehicle 2 said she was following too close and not paying close enough attention. The female driver said the sun was also in her eyes and she came around the bend of the roadway and did not give herself enough time to stop. Vehicle 1 had minor rear end damage and Vehicle 2 had moderate front end damage but was able to be driven. Vehicle 2 driver was cited for Inattentive Driving.

Shoplifting

On September 24, 2023 at 1939 hours, officers were dispatched to a shoplifter call at Walmart in Hermantown. The reporting employee stated to dispatch that a female was leaving now and that the female suspect handed product over to him and continued on foot walking towards the stop lights on Miller Trunk Hwy.

Officers located the female suspect, later identified as a 43-year-old woman, walking northbound on Miller Trunk Hwy.

The store employee explained that the woman selected items and placed items in her shopping cart while she was in the store. She then went to self-checkout where she attempted to pay for the items in her cart, but the items were never paid for. The woman then proceeded to push her shopping cart of items out the grocery exit while making no attempt to pay for the items in her shopping cart. The store employees then stopped her at the door.

Officers spoke with the woman, who explained that she showed up with a friend and needed to buy some food. She stated that she brought her items to the self-checkout, rang up her items and had to get an employee to delete an item off of her list. She told officers she attempted to pay for the items, but the touchpad kept saying partial payment.

The woman claimed that the employee assisting with the self-checkouts was on the phone and would not pay attention to the check-outs. She also stated that she was on the phone with a

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friend and the friend told her to "just leave" so she left the store with the items. The total value of the 15 items that were stolen/recovered is \$123.07.

The woman received a citation for Misdemeanor Shoplifting and was trespassed from all Walmart Stores for one year.

Theft

On 09/27/2023 at 1017 hours, officers were dispatched to Walmart for a theft incident. The reporting party said that a walking stick was stolen from inside the store on 09/21/2023. The stick is estimated to be worth \$50. Around 0934 hours on Thursday, an unknown male stole the walking stick and left the store.

Officers were able a 66-year-old male to determine a suspect by reviewing vehicle information retrieved from the store.

Officers went to the address of the suspect and when he answered the door, he brought the walking stick out with him before officers mentioned it. The man admitted to taking the stick, first saying the he thought the stick was his. He then went on to show me other sticks he had, none of which resembled the victim's stick. Later the man admitted that he took it because he thought someone left it there and didn't want it.

The male was advised that he would be mailed a citation for Misdemeanor Theft. The victim was reunited with their cane at Walmart.