

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
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner

Clerical
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp
Ashley Johnson

K-9
Tuuko
Jack



During the week of 1/28/24 to 2/3/24, the Hermantown PD had 167 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Community Event

On February 1st, 2024, The Hermantown Fire Department, alongside Safe Kids of Northeast Minnesota, hosted a free car seat check event where the public was invited to have their car seats checked and installed by certified Car Seat Technicians. Over the course of the week, eight individuals attended a Child Passenger Safety Technician certification class held at the Hermantown Government Services Center. This class was beneficial as a refresher for certified Hermantown Fire staff. It was reported that this event recorded the best attendance at this location to date, possibly because of the exquisite weather! It is always helpful when the kids are able to come with so that their proper weight and height can be used in helping with install, but it is not a requirement.

For more information on future car seat check events, be sure to visit the Safe Kids of Northeast Minnesota website, <https://www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-northeast-minnesota>.

Burglary

On February 2nd, 2024 at 0824 hours, officers were dispatched to a burglary which occurred near the 5400th block of Miller Trunk Highway. It was reported that a shop was burglarized overnight and that the business owner had video of the suspect inside the shop.

Officers met with the business owner who stated that the suspect entered the building through an office window. Officers reviewed the surveillance video and the suspect was seen on camera going through drawers, bins and desks while in the office. At one point while the suspect was in the main office area, it appeared that he heard something and he took a handgun out of his waist area and pointed it down the hallway to the shop. He also was seen on video hiding behind vehicles outside after opening windows and doors.

The owner stated that the staff completed a vehicle inventory and found that one car was missing and car keys for the vehicle had been stolen from one of the offices. It was valued at approximately \$6,000. Other merchandise reported stolen at the time was valued to be around \$350.

At 1312 hours, the Superior Police Department arrested a 24-year-old man who was located wearing the same clothing as the suspect during the burglary. Keys to the stolen vehicle were recovered upon his arrest. There was also a loaded handgun recovered upon arrest. Superior Police Department recovered the stolen vehicle approximately one block away from where the man was arrested.

The shop owner later notified officers that he found that the man attempted to steal two other vehicles, but was unable to get the vehicles out of the parking lot, and noted one got stuck in the ditch.

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Ultimately, the man was charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, 1st Degree Burglary, Prohibited Person in Possession of a Firearm, Tampering with Motor Vehicle x 2, and Theft from a Building.

Shoplifting

January 30th, 2024 at 1908 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to a report of a shoplifter at Walmart. Employees advised that a female suspect stole multiple items and left the store without purchasing the items. The suspect had been seen fleeing the store and ran across the road near the Volkswagen Dealership.

Walmart employees told officers that once the suspect selected and concealed several items, she walked towards the front of the store and did not make any attempts to purchase the items. The suspect exited the store. At this point, employees had attempted to stop her, but she dropped the merchandise outside on the sidewalk and ran away from the store. The total for the items was \$117.60.

While searching for the suspect, officers spoke with staff at a nearby hotel and provided a photo to staff if the suspect came in. At 2045 hours, staff from the Econo Lodge called and advised the suspect was inside the hotel. Officers responded and located the suspect hiding in the arcade of the hotel. The 28-year-old woman said she was hiding from law enforcement due to the shoplifting incident.

The woman told officers that she went to the store with the intent to steal because she needed some money. Her plan was to steal from the store and then return the items for cash. She also gave the officer some merchandise that she still possessed at the time of the interview.

The woman cited for shoplifting and was trespassed from Walmart at their request.

DWI

On January 30th, 2024 around 2334 hours, a Hermantown officer observed a vehicle driving Southbound on Miller Trunk Hwy that appeared to be driving at a high rate of speed, around 83MPH in a 55MPH zone. The vehicle kept driving at the high rate of speed and eventually turned south onto Stebner Road. The officer turned around and approached the vehicle which was now parked at the Skyline Bowling parking lot and still running. The officer then conducted a stop on the vehicle.

The 23-year-old male driver explained that he and his passenger had been bowling earlier and were just coming back from getting their car washed. The officer said he noticed the man to have bloodshot eyes and a slurred speech. Officers asked the man how much he had to drink that night and he said he had two pint-sized beers between 2000-2200 hours.

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The man then performed standardized field sobriety testing and also provided a preliminary breath test of .14. He was then placed under arrest and was charged with 4th Degree DWI Alcohol and Exceeding the speed limit.

