

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 3/24/24 to 3/30/24, the Hermantown PD had 142 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Shoplifting

On March 29th, 2024 at 1431 hours, Hermantown officers were dispatched to a shoplifter at Walmart. Officers were told by dispatch that a male suspect tried to push out a cart full of merchandise and took off running toward the Volkswagen Dealership. Officers also learned that all merchandise was recovered.

Officers in the area near the dealership observed the suspect running on the north side of the building near the woods. The suspect ran into the woods and near surrounding restaurants and hotels in the area. Officers noted that the suspect ran inside the Econo Lodge and down the hallway towards another exit door, where he was soon apprehended by officers. While the 35-year-old man was being arrested, officers stated the male claimed that he had just gotten out of jail and he was just trying to get some food.

Store employees stated that the man had placed multiple items of merchandise into a cart and then tried pushing the cart out the general merchandise doors without making any attempt to pay for anything in it. Employees confronted the man as he was walking out and asked him for a receipt, but the man dropped the cart and took off running.

The total value of the recovered merchandise was \$284.03. The store requested the man be trespassed from all locations for one year. The man was ultimately lodged on charges of misdemeanor shoplifting and fleeing on foot.

On March 30th, 2024 at 1410 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a fleeing shoplifter at Walmart. Dispatch advised that a male shoplifter fled the store and left the parking lot in a vehicle. Staff explained that he asked the suspect to see his receipt and the suspect ran from him and fled into the parking lot. The suspect got into the driver's seat of the suspect vehicle and left towards Fleet Farm.

Officers were able to contact the registered owner of the suspect vehicle, who stated that he had loaned his vehicle to a friend and who's boyfriend may have access to the vehicle. After reviewing photos and video from Walmart, the officer positively identified the suspect to be the registered owner of the vehicle. The suspect in the Walmart video had a neck tattoo and hand tattoo that matched the suspect.

Officers ultimately cited the man with shoplifting. They were unable to reach the suspect by phone. The total of the stolen merchandise was valued at \$26.00.



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Jim Crace

Commanders
Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants
Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective Bureau
Jeff Dwyer
Jake Williams

Officers
Jason Salo
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Olivia Gottschald
Andrew Leibel
Alex Prouse
Rebecca Towner
Devin Kleive
Lucas Hedin

Clerical
Dana Ross
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Fraud

On March 28th, 2024 around 1759 hours, officers spoke with a man who was from out of town but currently in the Hermantown Police Department lobby requesting to speak to an officer about a possible fraud situation.

Officers met with the man who told them he almost fell for a scam. He explained that said someone pretending to be a fraud protection employee and requested for him to take out \$31,000 from his savings account, which he did. As the interaction continued, the man said he realized it was a scam and returned to his bank to inform them of what happened.

Officers also learned that there was no loss and the man didn't want anything further done at this time. He was advised to speak with his local law enforcement if he changed his mind.

Traffic Arrest

On March 24th, 2024 around 0338 hours, officers were on routine patrol in the area of Hwy 2 and Midway Road when the officer ran a routine query of the plate and observed it was registered to a 60-year-old man who was showing as a revoked driver. A traffic stop was performed and after briefly speaking with the man, dispatch alerted that there was an active warrant for theft in Carlton County, and they would extradite.

The man was arrested and the officer met up with a Carlton County Deputy who transported him to the Carlton County jail.

Traffic Accident

On March 29th, 2024 around 1721 hours, officers were alerted of a two-vehicle accident near the West Arrowhead and Haines Road intersection. Officers arrived and made contact with the two vehicle drivers.

Driver 1, a 22-year-old male, stated that he was exiting the Titan Machinery lot onto Haines Road. He explained that there were cars backed up southbound on Haines in the lane to go straight, but a gap was left for cars to exit the Titan lot and get over to the left turn lane. The man told officers that one of the vehicles was waving him through the gap. As he went, he crashed into the rear passenger's side wheel area of Driver 2's vehicle. The 28-year-old driver was southbound Haines in the left turn lane.

Officers noted that there was moderate damage to both vehicles, but found both to be drivable. Luckily there were no injuries reported on scene. Due to the damage, a state report was completed.

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