

# AROUND TOWN



**Chief**  
**Jim Crace**

**Deputy Chiefs**  
**Mark Gunderson**  
**Jon Esterbrooks**

**Sergeants**  
**Griffin Pfeiffer - K9**  
**Jon Pernu - K9**

**Detective Bureau**  
**Jeff Dwyer**  
**Jake Williams**

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

**Clerical**  
**Dana Ross**  
**Samantha Knapp**  
**Ashley Johnson**

**K-9**  
**Tuuko**  
**Jack**



**During the week of 12/29/24 to 01/04/25, the Hermantown PD had 181 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.**

## **Providing False Name to an Officer**

On December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 2146 hours patrol officers conducted a traffic stop in the 4700 block of Miller Trunk Highway for a traffic violation. Officers approached the vehicle to advise the male driver the reason for the stop, and asked for identification. The female passenger of the vehicle, who was observed to not be wearing a seatbelt, stated she did not have identification with her. Officers were unable to locate any records for the female based on the verbal information she provided for her identity.

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that a female with a similar name and date of birth that had a warrant out of a neighboring county for providing a false name to police. The officers viewed the record information, and confirmed it to be the passenger of the vehicle.

The woman was then placed under arrest for the warrant, and issued a citation for providing a false name to a peace officer.

## **Scam**

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025 at approximately 1625 hours dispatch advised of a call back request in reference to threatening text messages. Officers called and spoke to the reporting party who said they had been receiving text messages throughout the day from an unknown phone number who appeared to be a scammer. The messages being sent were becoming increasingly more threatening, and some contained graphic and disturbing images. The unknown texter was demanding that they be sent money in the form of gift cards, and stated they were tracking the individual.

At 2059 hours officers received another call from a second individual who was also receiving threatening text messages. This caller stated the messages sent were threatening to have assassins come to their residence if they did not send money. The messages being sent to both parties contained personal identifying information which is a common scare tactic used by scammers.

Officers collected the information and the phone numbers associated with the scam messages for documentation purposes. The reporting parties were advised to not respond to any messages, and to block the phone numbers.

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## Warrant Arrests

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025 around 1627 hours an officer on patrol in the area in Hermantown Road and Lavaque Road conducted a traffic stop for failing to stop at a stop sign. The vehicle was observed slowing as they approached the intersection before accelerating and continuing eastbound on Hermantown Road.

The officer spoke to the male driver who stated he saw the officer just before seeing the stop sign. The man provided an out of state drivers license, which he advised was suspended. The registered owner of the vehicle was in the passenger seat, and was found to have a valid drivers license. The male said he was driving because the pair were out doing Door Dash, and the female wasn't feeling well.

A query of the driver confirmed the suspended license, and also showed a local misdemeanor warrant. The officer advised the driver he was under arrest, and he was transported to St. Louis County jail where he was lodged on the warrant. The man was cited for driving with a suspended driver's license, and failure to stop at a stop sign.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 2219 hours, an officer patrolling the Walmart parking lot recognized a vehicle that had been involved in a recent theft. The suspect vehicle was also observed to have an object suspended from the rearview mirror. The vehicle soon exited the lot, and the officer conducted a traffic stop. The male driver was advised for the reason of the contact, and denied any knowledge of the theft incident. The male passenger stated he was in the suspect vehicle the day of the theft, but also denied stealing anything.

While speaking to the occupants, the officer learned the passenger had an active local warrant for theft. The 26-year-old male was placed under arrest and lodged at St. Louis County Jail for the warrant.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 0117 hours an officer near the Kwik Trip on Haines Road took note of a male displaying suspicious behavior inside the store. The male was accompanied by a female known to the officer from a recent contact.

The male's identity was confirmed with a prior jail booking photo, and he was found to have two local warrants for theft. The man was placed under arrest, and lodged at St. Louis County jail for the warrants.

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