

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

# New fireboat responds to two rescues in four days

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

An early morning rescue on Lake Vermilion allowed the Greenwood Fire Department to see the capabilities of the new forward looking infrared camera system (FLIR) on their new fire and rescue boat.

"The big news is that the FLIR system was responsible for finding the victims," said Greenwood Fire Chief Randy Kladivo, who along with his sons Adam and T.J. responded to the call of a boat crash just outside of Everett Bay in the early morning hours last Sunday.

Kladivo said the FLIR system is able to detect temperature differences of only a degree-and-a-half, showing a colored image on the screen. The FLIR is also proving useful as a nighttime navigation tool, since floating logs and even small ducks are visible on the screen.

"It was very dark and there was a lot of fog on the south shore of Everett Bay," said Kladivo, "It was kind of nasty out there."

Patrick and Cheryl Bilman, of Duluth, were transporting another couple, Jeffrey and Lisa Erickson, also of Duluth, to Fortune Bay Marina when the accident occurred at around 1:30 a.m. Both of the Bilmans were injured in the crash.

## New infra-red system proves helpful for rescuing boaters on dark and foggy night

Someone on the boat called 911, but they were not sure where their disabled boat was located.

Kladivo said they were able to spot the boaters on the FLIR system before they could find them visually with the boat's spotlights. The boaters were also able to call 911 and confirm they saw the rescue boat coming.

Both of the Bilmans were transported to Virginia Regional Medical Center. Cheryl was then airlifted to Duluth and Patrick was transported by ambulance to Duluth. The two other passengers were not injured, and the Greenwood Rescue Boat transported them back to the Bilmans' cabin, to pick up the Bilmans' son, and then to the marina where their car was located.

This was the first major boating accident responded to by the new rescue boat, which was just put into the water this spring. Kladivo said if more of the passengers had been injured, they would have needed the second fire/rescue boat, which is docked at Birch Point Marina.

The department has been having issues with members' pagers not going off. In this instance, Kladivo

said, several other department members did not get the page. At least one of them could have responded to the scene with the second boat.

"We were stretched to our limits," Kladivo said. "Luckily we didn't have four serious injuries."

The FLIR system was purchased with an anonymous donation to the fire department.

"This equipment is a tremendous asset to the people of Lake Vermilion," Kladivo said.

The new rescue boat responded to a second boating accident in the early morning hours of July 18. Three accident victims were transported to Virginia Regional Medical Center. Kladivo said the rescue was in the same general area, but not on the exact same island. GPS navigation systems may be to blame for some of these accidents.

The new boat has also responded to several fire calls, mostly mutual aid calls on the Cook end of the lake. The boat can spray a stream of water over 200 feet. The boat will only be used for firefighting and rescue work on Lake Vermilion.



Above: The Bilman boat after the crash. submitted photo.



Right: The new Greenwood Fire and Rescue boat sprayed out a stream of water during the Fourth of July flotilla. photo by J. Summit

## Obituaries

### Thomas J. Morrow, 60

Thomas J. Morrow, 60, of Omaha, Neb., died on Thursday, July 12, 2007. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 21, 2007, at Heafey-Hoffmann-Dworak-Cutler Mortuary in Omaha. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Fontenelle Nature Association for Tom's tree house which is part of Acorn Acres, a special outdoor play area for children: Fontenelle Nature Association, 1111 North Bellevue Blvd, Bellevue, NE 68005. Arrangements are by Heafey-Hoffmann-Dworak-Cutler of Omaha.

Tom was born in Omaha and attended St. Margaret Mary School and Creighton Prep, graduating in the class of 1965. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1969. He worked for Northwestern Bell and US WEST and retired as President of Time Warner Communications. He and Gerry lived in northern Minnesota for nine years and moved back to Omaha when he became ill in 2006. When his sons were younger, Tom was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader and a soccer coach in Omaha. He volunteered with various community groups in Minnesota and served on the board of the Minnesota Lakes Association.

He is survived by his best friend and wife of 35 years, Gerry Morrow; his sons, Christopher (Sherese) of Calabasas, Calif., and Mark of Omaha; three grandsons, Tate, Bryce and Peyton; his brother, James (Dorothy) Morrow; and a wonderful group of nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph C. and Pat Morrow; and his sister, Ann Burke.

### Lorna M. Sanders, 79

Lorna Mae Sanders, 79, of Hibbing, died on Monday, July 16, 2007, in the Virginia Regional Medical Center. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 18, 2007, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hibbing, with the Rev. Kathy Ierien officiating. Burial was in Maple Hill Cemetery in Hibbing. Arrangements were by Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert.

She was born on July 8, 1928, in Superior, Wis., to John and Ida (Solum) Worsley. Lorna was a graduate of Superior Central High School, and during that time worked for the original Bridgeman Brothers Store No. 7. In 1955, she married Spencer Sanders at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hibbing. Lorna worked as a waitress for Sammy's Pizza in Hibbing, the Carlton Truck Stop, De Leon's and White's Cafe in Gilbert, and at the Olympic in Virginia. She was a former member of the Carlton Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Survivors include her husband of 52 years, Spencer; children, Marsha Hall of Eveleth, Rachel (Gary) Stavenger of Gilbert, Jay (Lorrie) Sanders of Eveleth, Theresa (Jerry Johnson) Sanders of Embarrass, Karen Sanders of Hibbing, Robert Sanders of Foreston, Minn., and Loretta (James Orcutt) Sanders of Embarrass; sister, Bernice Baldwin of Hibbing; 22 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephew. She was a mom to many.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, David; brothers, J. Raymond, Charles, George, William and Woodrow; and two brothers in infancy, Robert and Joseph.

### Lloyd A. Pratt, 62

Lloyd Allen Pratt, 62, of Hibbing, passed away on Friday, July 13, 2007, at the Golden Crest Healthcare Center in Hibbing, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. A funeral service was held on Thursday, July 19, 2007, at the Range Funeral Home in Hibbing. The Rev. Mark Palmer officiated. Arrangements were with Range Funeral Home in Hibbing.

Lloyd was born on Sept. 8, 1944, to Robert L. and Ila (Mattson) Pratt in Hibbing. He graduated from auto mechanic school in 1964. Shortly after graduation he started working for IBEW Local 294 and worked there for 33 years, retiring in 1999. Lloyd enjoyed woodworking, reading, classic car restoration, taking Missy for her walks in North Hibbing, fishing, hunting, spending time at his cabin, and especially his time with his family.

He is survived by two daughters, Michelle (Brad) Arvila of Angola and Deborah (Todd) Mellesmoen of Hibbing; seven grandchildren, Colton, Lauren, Morgan, Brandon, Meghan, Brittney and Savanna; two brothers, Vernon (Sally) Pratt and Robert (Carol) Pratt; faithful companion, Missy; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Ila; brother, Gerald in March 2007; and uncle, Eino Mattson.

### James J. McLellan, 69

James J. "Jim" McLellan, 69, of Buhl, died on Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at Fairview University Medical Center-Mesabi in Hibbing. In accordance with Jim's wishes, there will be no formal service. Arrangements are by Rupp Funeral Home & Cremation

Service in Chisholm. To sign the guest book online and leave a memorial message, go to [www.ruppfuneralhome.com](http://www.ruppfuneralhome.com).

He was born on March 22, 1938, in Duluth, to John and Helen (Hultgren) McLellan. Jim had been a Duluth resident until moving to Mountain Iron in 1971, and then to Buhl in 1986. He retired in 1993 as a heavy equipment operator for U.S. Steel's Minntac Plant after 37 years of service at U.S. Steel. Prior to Minntac, he worked at the steel plant in Gary New Duluth until its closing.

Jim was an avid outdoorsman, who especially liked hunting and fishing in Canada. He enjoyed motorcycling and snowmobiling. He spent five years wintering in Arizona. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; children, Cindy (Steve) Pettinelli of Lake Vermilion, Tower, Kenneth (Sherri) McLellan of Mountain Iron, Cathy (Cal Seguin) Andrews of Aitkin; stepchildren, Cindy (Donald) Penn of Hibbing, Doris (Donald) Hill of Buhl, Dale Boskovich of Las Vegas, Nev., and Dana (Brent) Saari of Woodbury, Minn.; grandchildren, Christopher and Mark Pettinelli, Nikki, Jamie and Jesse McLellan; step-grandchildren, Matt and Patrick Durbahn, Brad and Jeff Hill, and Danielle and Sam Saari; brother, George (Debbie) McLellan of Duluth; sisters, Ethel Sullivan of Duluth, Elaine (Herb), Hilton of San Diego, Calif., and Lois Olson of Duluth; and numerous nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Edith Neuman.



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