

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **TRAGIC LOSS OF TRIBAL MEMBERS**

"It is something tragic that has taken place here on the Reservation, but everywhere I look, tribal members are coming together in a good way to show respect to one another, to console the families that are suffering at this time." – A well known and respected tribal elder (who wishes to remain anonymous.)

"Out of respect for the families involved in this, we will not release any information at this time. The families have expressed that they wish to properly mourn the passing of their loved ones. even though many are suffering at this time, we have all taken a moment to remember those we have lost so far this year, and everyone has joined together to pray that we do not lose any more tribal members in such a horrible way. To lose someone at such a young age is difficult, but through the healing of our Creator, we will continue on to build a better life, and remember those who we have lost" (statement from Jonathan Barela; Assistant Director Public Relations Northern Arapaho Tribe)

There is a current investigation being conducted by the FBI, BIA and Fremont County Coroners office for three individuals that have recently passed away. Those individuals were, Alexis Gardner, Alex Whiteplume and Winter Rose Thomas. Unfortunately the results of the autopsies will not be available for another 4 – 6 weeks. The results of the preliminary examinations will be made available late afternoon Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and at that time, what findings become available, we inform the public and all media outlets.

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