

## NMSP ID victims of train derailment

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SILVER CITY >>New Mexico State Police released the names and ages of the three people killed in the train derailment that occurred Saturday afternoon, three miles from Bayard.

Law enforcement previously reported that all three victims were men, however, one of the victims was a woman, Ann Thompson, 50, originally from Paulden, Ariz. The other two victims were Donald White, 38, of Silver City, and Steven Crose, 60, also of Paulden, Ariz.

A locomotive for Southwestern Railroad was pulling eight cars south to Santa Rita carrying Magnetite, a form of iron that is not hazardous, when it derailed around noon Saturday and fell 40 to 50 feet into an arroyo off State Highway 356 at mile marker three. The eight supply cars continued to run along the track until they reached a curve in the tracks and then derailed. The accident occurred on Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold property near the Chino Mine. The cause of the accident is still unknown. The Federal Railroad Administration will investigate the cause of the accident.

Crose and White both worked for the railroad. Thompson was Crose's girlfriend, said Wanda Shepard, Crose's cousin. It is also unknown why Thompson was inside the locomotive at the time of the crash as she did not work for Southwestern Railroad, Shepard said. Both Thompson and Crose had recently moved to the Hurley area just three weeks ago for Crose's job.

"They loved being on the train," Shepard said of White and her cousin. "They loved it. It was their calling, and they were really proud of their jobs and what they did."

Shepard said Crose had been an engineer for as long as she could remember. He left behind a father in Arizona, a brother in California, an ex-wife and two daughters.

"He was a great artist, a wonderful musician. He was very creative, very loving," Shepard added. "He was just an all around good guy."

Shepard said she was shocked to learn Thompson had also been on the train at the time of the crash.

"That was a shock to me. It was news to me she would even be on [the train]," Shepard said. "I don't think she ever went with him to work."

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