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Aviation Accident Investigator
WPR

Date: September 20, 2022

Subject: WPR22LA352, Statement of local resident via local law enforcement officer email

Contact: Lt. Travis Hauser, Wyoming Highway Patrol Supervisor

The following is a summary of the email provided by the highway patrol supervisor regarding the statement provided by the local resident:

Thad, the local resident, was driving home on 09/15/2022 around 1522 hours when he spotted the plane in the field. He found the pilot, Tom [Yuliang Xie] with the airplane. Thad helped Tom remove the plane from the scene. Tom stated he didn't have insurance and that he didn't want the plane. Tom stated he had just fueled up in Lander, WY, and took the plane car to Safeway and Boomgaars in Lander. He got food and some washers for the plane. Thad mentioned to the supervisor that Tom had seen several zip ties holding the plane together and Tom admitted to using zip ties to hold everything together.

The local resident took Tom back to their house, and Tom emptied all of his bags, he had about 3 Walmart bags with clothes, a laptop, (headset) earpiece, and a handheld radio. Tom was helped to get a flight back to Alabama and the local was driven to the Holiday Inn in Riverton. Tom used his credit card to pay for his room. His flight was for the next day 09/16/2022. Tom also mentioned he wanted to get back to Florida so he could study to become an actual pilot.

While the patrol supervisor was at Thad's residence, the resident was asked to text Tom to see if he would text back. Thad asked for the title of the plane, and Tom responded and sent a photo of the title.