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AS-ANC

**Date:** May 23, 2024

**Subject:** ANC24LA035, Student Pilot Written Statement

**Contact:** Cody Harkins, Student Pilot / Accident Airplane Owner

The following is a written statement provided by Cody Harkins.

On Thursday May 16, 2024, I was chatting with Katie Marie Waito and her boyfriend (whose name I forget). They represented themselves as local pilots at the Afton, WY airport. We were talking about planes and the boyfriend asked if the new blue and white plane was mine. I said it was. I told them I bought it to finish out my license and get my tailwheel endorsement, but in the meantime, I wasn't capable to fly it. Katie said she had the exact same plane in the hanger we were standing outside. She then showed me around her plane in the hanger.

The boyfriend suggested that Katie take me up in my plane and show me around since weather was perfect and there was still plenty of light. I again told Katie I wasn't legal or experienced to fly it. She said she was certified to fly it and had over 150 hours in that make and model and a commercial pilots license with over 500 hours of flying experience. I gave Katie permission to fly it with me as a passenger and handed her the keys. After pulling out on the runway, she applied full power and pushed the yoke in. After lifting the tail off the ground and momentarily leaving the ground, we came back down and she started to lose control and departed the runway to the right bouncing a couple times before going through a chain link fence and a barbwire fence and flipping the plane over. As soon as we left the runway I put both hands up against the top of the dash to brace for impact.

Katie cut mixture and we exited the overturned aircraft. We were both uninjured but katie immediately started denying being the pilot and even being in the airplane. This was the conversation immediately after exiting overturned airplane.

Katie: "I wasn't the pilot, I wasn't in this airplane."

I replied: "Thats a lie because you were the one flying it!"

she replied: "I know it is a [REDACTED] thing to do to you, but i can't take another crash on my record."

The boyfriend came up to the crash in a pickup and he told us not to report anything. He suggested we could hide the plane in their hanger and Katie agreed. I didn't think that was right to do. I called 911 to report the crash and after giving the details to her, the dispatcher asked for her full name. In the moment I couldn't remember her last name, I asked her what her last name is and she said "Kate Smith". I repeated it to the dispatcher and I overheard her boyfriend say in a low tone "No thats a lie, that is not her name." They again said we didn't need to tell anyone we just needed to flip the plane back over and fix the fence and not tell anyone in a bossier aggressive tone. I continued to talk to the dispatcher and she advised me to get their license plate number and get some distance from them in case they become hostile.

After going back to my truck i observed them closing their hanger and moving a bunch of stuff around in a hurry and stayed in the hanger till the first police arrived. I gave a report to the first police officer who arrived and then I got a call from the FAA and gave a statement to them. Chief Romberg from the Afton Police arrived, and I gave him a statement also.