

Alleged Bomb-Maker Released By Feds

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Early Friday afternoon, May 2nd, alleged bomb-maker of rural Upton David Riggle appeared in federal district court in Casper (right), the first appearance of the United States vs. David Riggle. The defendant turned himself in when he received federal charges last week. Weston County Prosecuting Attorney Michael Stulken dropped the State's charges against Riggle, so that the federal charges (which carry much heavier penalties) could be administered.

When Riggle appeared in Circuit Court in Weston County in December last year, the State asked for a \$100,000.00 cash-only bond amount at Riggle's Bail Hearing due to the threat Riggle posed to the community of Upton. The Honorable Judge Lynda Bush lowered that amount to only \$10,000.00, arguing that Riggle has ties to the community as he's lived in Weston County for ten years, is employed by his father, has never failed to appear in court before, and has no criminal history. Following his release on bail, Riggle was free to roam within Weston, Crook, and Campbell Counties without permission from the Court, though he was being monitored by a GPS monitor and isn't allowed to possess firearms or weapons.

Riggle was arrested on December 11th, 2024 in connection with an improvised explosive device (IED) he



allegedly planted in an equipment storage shed on TYVO property just south of Upton, which was discovered on the morning of November 30th after the IED failed to detonate. The Affidavit of Probable Cause filed by the Weston County Sheriff's Office explains that the probable cause used to arrest Riggle was video surveillance of the defendant purchasing the batteries used in the device and a receipt for the purchase in Riggle's bedroom. Additionally, a fuse found in his bedroom was the same as the fuse used in the device, and electrical wire used in the device was the same as wire found in Riggle's bedroom. Also, boot prints found in a barn on the Riggle property on Nester Road were an exact match to those found crossing a field from the Riggle property to the shed at the

TYVO drilling yard shed where the IED was placed.

In federal court, the defendant waived his right to a preliminary hearing so Friday's hearing was a Detention Hearing, a proceeding before a judge to determine whether the accused is to be detained, continue to be detained, or released while the proceedings are pending in their case. Opening the Hearing was the Honorable Michael Shickich, stating to those present that there were conditions under which Riggle could be released.

When asked by Judge Shickich if the prosecution contested the defendant's release, the attorney representing the United States stated, "We don't contest bond release. There's nothing aggravating to raise concern for public safety."

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