



**LOCAL  
THEATER**  
CLTP prepares to present  
challenging 'Cabaret'  
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**FLORIDA  
BOUND**  
Cowboys linebacker  
drafted by Jacksonville  
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# Wyoming Tribune Eagle

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## Wyoming voter ID law faces challenge

By Victoria Eavis  
Casper Star-Tribune  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

CASPER – An attorney and former Democratic state lawmaker filed suit Wednesday over Wyoming’s voter ID law, arguing it violates multiple sections of the state’s constitution. The lawsuit alleges the law, which went into effect last year, is inconvenient and unnecessary.

“(The voter ID law) trammels the constitutional right essential to suffrage both in passage and operation,” the suit states.

The law, which requires voters to show ID at the polls, was passed in the 2021 legislative session and has been in effect for less than a year. Wyoming voters have long had to show a photo ID when registering, a provision the lawsuit does not challenge.

The lawsuit, filed by former Democratic representative Charles Pelkey, represents one of the first attempts to legally challenge the voter ID law on the basis of the state’s constitution.

“This is not the last century,” the lawsuit read. “The government needs to show why the first acceptable photo ID cannot display automatically to the poll workers when people vote, so voters can be welcomed and thanked for voting – rather than challenged.”

The law was enacted via House Bill 75, whose primary sponsor was Rep. Chuck Gray, R-Casper.

Notably, 40 members of the House of Representatives and half of the 30-member Wyoming Senate signed on as co-sponsors.

“This formal complaint has been filed by a former Democrat state legislator after the law has already gone into effect and been utilized in multiple elections,” Gray said in a statement. “Today’s filing is frivolous and demonstrates how the radical Left wants to make it easier to cheat in elections.”

See Voter ID, page A2

## Pine Bluffs wood artist to be featured in the Smithsonian

By Will Carpenter  
Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE – People around town still don’t seem to understand what Curt Theobald does for a living.

“It’s a big thing, and it’s hard to believe,” Theobald said in a phone conversation this week with the Wyoming Tribune Eagle. “A lot of people in the community of Pine Bluffs know that ‘Curt works with wood,’ but any more than that, no. It’s hard to describe.

“I made this piece of wood. I glued 700 pieces of wood together, and then I’m going to sell it for \$15,000. That doesn’t make sense in the farming and ranching community of Pine Bluffs.”

Rest assured, there are plenty of people who do understand his work. They live all over the world, including Ireland, France, New Zealand and England. But from May 13-April 2, the public will be able to see his work somewhere new – in our nation’s Capitol.

Theobald, a contemporary wood artist living in Pine Bluffs, recently had his 2013 artwork, titled “Eye of the Storm,” purchased by Smithsonian Institute collectors from another private collector. It will now be featured in the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum as a part of their newest show, “This Present Moment: Crafting a Better World.”

And that isn’t his only honor. For the opening exhibition, Theobald was one of 12 artists invited to Washington, D.C., to interact with attendees during the showing. Out of more than 170 pieces, he was chosen to represent the medium of wood-working with his sculpture.



Curt Theobald works on an alabaster bowl on a lathe at his home in southeast Laramie County. Theobald is an internationally known artist and teacher known for segmented woodturning. Photo by Michael Smith for “Our Faces: Portraits of Laramie County” project

“There’s plenty of wood artists that they could have selected from,” he said with a laugh. “Did they put the names on a big spinning board and throw a dart at it?”

It’s a labor-intensive medium, carving and sculpting wood. Theobald spent many years running a cabinet business, putting his skills to practical use, which is probably why neighbors get confused as to what he’s doing in the shop all day.

But during his time running a business, he waited for those six weeks off where he could work on his craft. It was the thing that allowed him to express himself, after a life of

### At a glance

Curt Theobald, an internationally known wood artist, recently had one of his pieces purchased by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. Still in awe, Theobald talks about the background of his passion and the piece that landed him in the most prestigious museum in the United States.

manual labor.

“My dad, he’s the farmer – our farm just turned into a century farm – and his deal is, if you don’t have three hours of work in by eight in the morning, you’re a slacker,” Theobald said.

Theobald told his dad some years ago that he would be flying to England to teach woodturning.

“His question was, ‘How much does that cost?’ I said, ‘No, dad, they’re paying for me to come.’ It just doesn’t make sense to somebody that used to till the ground.”

He can thank his father for one thing, and that’s instilling in him a work ethic. What’s kept Theobald woodturning is the drive to solve problems and create something new. The moments where he realizes he doesn’t know how to do something are often his favorite.

See Theobald, page A2

## Married LCSD1 principal, asst. superintendent resign

By Jasmine Hall  
Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE – The Laramie County School District 1 board of trustees recently accepted the resignations of former Assistant Superintendent of Support Operations Dave Bartlett and Meadowlark Elementary Principal Fawn Bartlett.

Their letters of resignation were approved at a special meeting April 12, where no details were given as to why both officially left the district after two decades. The administrators have been out of their respective offices since October, and Dave Bartlett said he will remain “gainfully employed” until the end of June. He opted to retire,

while his wife opted to resign. Both of their departures will formally go into effect at the end of the contract year.

The annual salary scale for an assistant superintendent in LCSD1 starts at around \$146,000 and caps at \$162,000. An elementary principal is paid between \$93,000 and \$127,000.

“I decided to take retirement,” Bartlett told the Wyoming Tribune Eagle. “Leadership is just going in a different direction.”

LCSD1 Superintendent Margaret Crespo and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Vicki Thompson said they were unable to answer whether the couple had been on paid administrative leave since

### At a glance

The Laramie County School District 1 Board of Trustees accepted the resignations of former Assistant Superintendent of Support Operations Dave Bartlett and Meadowlark Elementary Principal Fawn Bartlett.

The letters were approved at a special meeting held April 12. Leadership in the district, as well as the Bartletts, gave no details as to why the couple left their positions after 20 years.

last fall, or the circumstances under which they resigned, because these are personnel matters.

See Resign, page A2

## Wanted: Your Yellowstone memories, favorite places

To commemorate this year’s 150th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park, the Wyoming Tribune Eagle is producing a special commemorative magazine that will be included as a premium for current subscribers in June.

In addition to stories about and photos of the nation’s first national park prepared by skilled journalists, we want to include you in this once-in-a-lifetime publication.

We want to hear about your favorite

Yellowstone memory, as well as your “must-see” part of the park. Do you have a place you have to visit each time you trek to the northwest corner of the state? Tell us about it so we can share it with other readers.

Send your Yellowstone memories and favorite places, including photos, by May 10 to WTE Managing Editor Brian Martin at [bmartin@wyomingnews.com](mailto:bmartin@wyomingnews.com). We’ll include as many as we can in this special magazine.



Grand Prismatic Pool  
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### On the Web

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### Weather

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80 (2007)  
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Avg:  
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34

**58 30**  
Mostly sunny skies

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