

To Do

"Black Swan" is a chiller D4



Fort Laramie Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, 7:30 a.m. Members of the Cheyenne – High Plains Audubon Society will be counting birds for the annual Guernsey – Fort Laramie Christmas Bird Count. Anyone interested in accompanying the group for all or part of the day-long field trip is welcome. Participants will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens parking lot and need to bring lunch, water, binoculars, spotting scope if you have one, and warm clothes and boots. Grayrocks Reservoir, Guernsey State Park, Ft. Laramie National Historic Site, the Oregon Trail Ruts and historic Hartville are on the itinerary. To sign up for the all or part of the trip, please contact Greg Johnson, 634-1056, gjohnson@west-inc.com, or Mark Gorges, 634-0463, mgorges@juno.com

Today

Denver Zoo Lights – 5 to 9 p.m. \$8 for adults ages 12-64, \$6 for seniors 65 and older, \$4 for children ages 3-11, children 2 and under are free. Denver Zoo, 2300 Steele St. 303-376-4800, www.denverzoo.org

Blossoms of Lights – 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$9.50 for adults, \$7.50 students and seniors, children 4 to 12 years old \$6.50, free for children 3 and younger. Denver Botanic Gardens, 1007 York St., Denver. 720-865-3500, www.botanicgardens.org

Trail of Lights – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Admission, \$9.50 adults, \$7.50 student, seniors 65 and older, \$6.50 child ages 4-12, \$4.50 child member, free for children 3 and under. Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road, Littleton, Colo. (303) 973-3705.

Today in performance

"Dixie's Tupperware Party" – 2 and 7:30 p.m. Off-Broadway comedy. Garner Galleria Theatre at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 1050 13th St., Denver. \$30 and up. 303-893-4100.

303 Movement – 8:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. Bluebird Theater, 3317 E. Colfax Ave. Denver. 303-377-1666 or www.bluebirdtheater.net

An Intimate Solo and Acoustic Performance by Citizen Cope – 8:30 p.m. All ages. \$25. Fox Theater. 1128 13th St., Boulder, Colo. (303) 443-3399 or www.foxtheatre.com

Today in sports

Nuggets vs. Kings – 7 p.m. \$10-\$148. Pepsi Center, 1000 Chopper Circle, Denver. www.tickethorse.com

To Do Tomorrow

Fort Laramie Christmas Bird Count – 7:30 a.m. Members of the Cheyenne – High Plains Audubon Society will be counting birds for the annual Guernsey – Ft. Laramie Christmas Bird Count. Anyone interested in accompanying the group for all or part of the day-long field trip is welcome. Participants will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens parking lot and need to bring lunch, water, binoculars, spotting scope if you have one, and warm clothes and boots. Grayrocks Reservoir, Guernsey State Park, Ft. Laramie National Historic Site, the Oregon Trail Ruts and historic Hartville are on the itinerary. To sign up for the all or part of the trip, please contact Greg Johnson, 634-1056, gjohnson@west-inc.com, or Mark Gorges, 634-0463, mgorges@juno.com

Holiday tea – first seating at 1:30 p.m., final seating at 3:40 p.m. Reservations recommended. \$18.95. Nagle Warren Mansion, 222 East 17th St. 637-3333.

Tomorrow in performance

"Dixie's Tupperware Party" – 2 and 7:30 p.m. Off-Broadway comedy. Garner Galleria Theatre at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, 1050 13th St., Denver. \$30 and up. 303-893-4100.

Tomorrow in sports

Colorado Avalanche vs. Vancouver Canucks – 6 p.m. \$25-\$216. Pepsi Center, 1000 Chopper Circle, Denver. www.tickethorse.com

In "Threads West" you'll find romance, adventure and strong female characters

Wyoming author Reid Rosenthal says the characters in his novel are "real people" with complex personalities. "If you don't care about the characters then what's the use?" he says.

By Karen Cotton
kcotton@wyoingnews.com

You won't find women who are shrinking violets in Reid Rosenthal's debut historical novel, "Threads West."

You will find romance, adventure and a reminder of America's roots.

"The year 1855 was the year that I chose to begin the story,"

Rosenthal said. "It is a pivotal point in American history. While I knew that because I thought I knew the history of that time period, I didn't realize how pivotal that was."

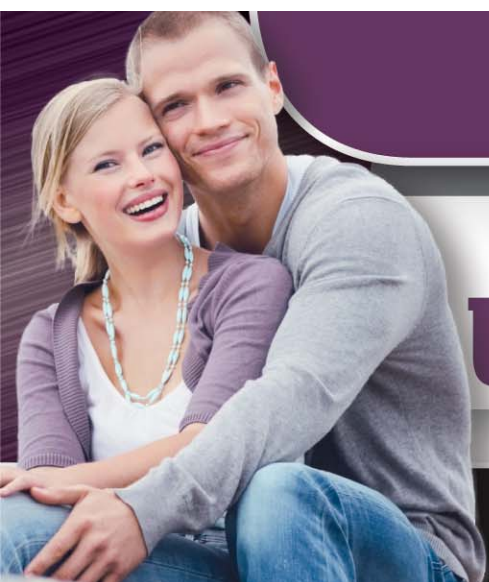
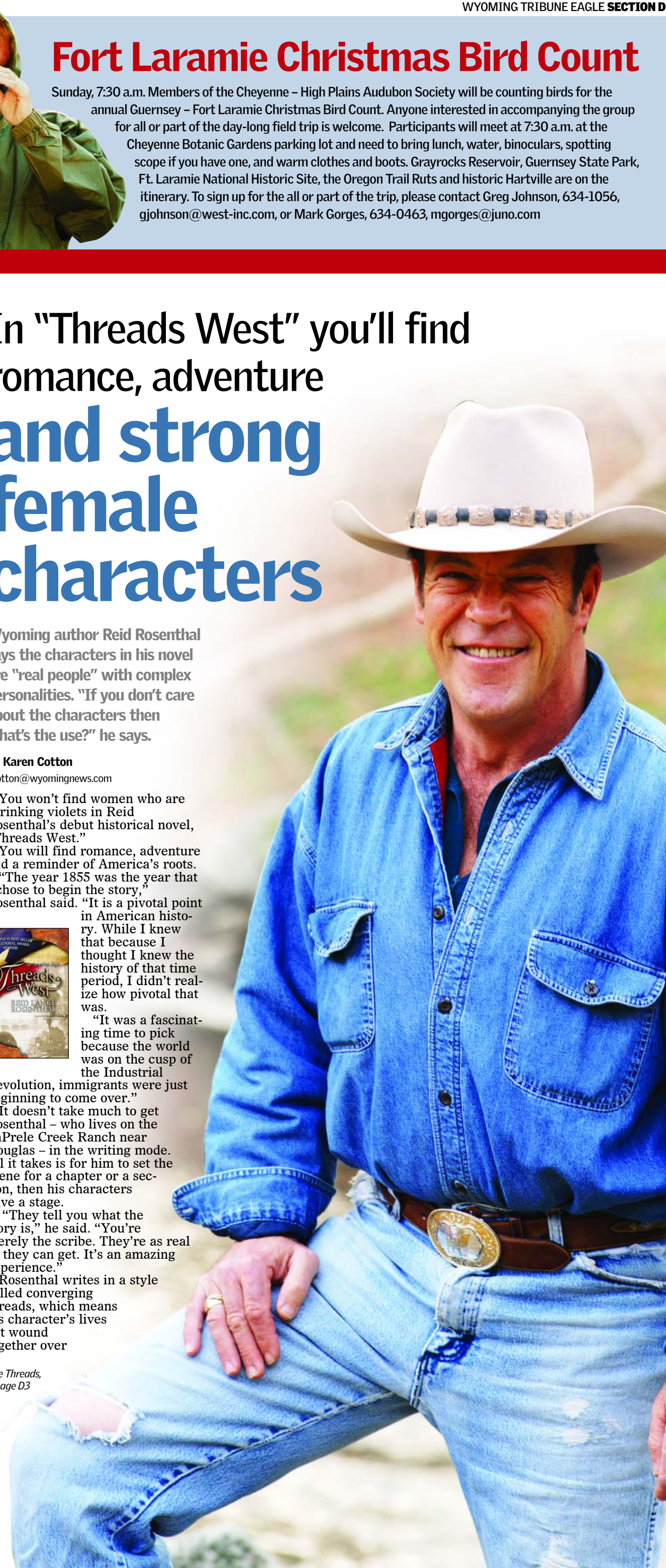
"It was a fascinating time to pick because the world was on the cusp of the Industrial Revolution, immigrants were just beginning to come over."

It doesn't take much to get Rosenthal – who lives on the LaPrele Creek Ranch near Douglas – in the writing mode. All it takes is for him to set the scene for a chapter or a section, then his characters have a stage.

"They tell you what the story is," he said. "You're merely the scribe. They're as real as they can get. It's an amazing experience."

Rosenthal writes in a style called converging threads, which means his character's lives get wound together over

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