

Glenn said he did not get a response to a recent email to Maketa asking about controlled burns in Black Forest.

- “I think when this independent investigation is completed, it’s going to clear up a lot of myths that are going around.”

**Background:** Three commanders in the sheriff’s office sent a complaint letter about Maketa directly to the BOCC on May 12. On May 13, the BOCC met in an executive session with legal counsel, sent a response letter to the sheriff, and began an outside investigation of the Sheriff’s Office. Since the BOCC is the funding agency for all the elected offices, it is obligated to fund the sheriff’s separate legal counsel in any investigation.

On May 29, the commissioners unanimously approved a vote of no confidence in the sheriff and publicly

asked him to resign his office. They do not have the authority to take any employment action on an elected official. Only the resignation of the sheriff or a successful recall petition by the voters could remove him from office before the end of his elected term in January.

### BOCC criticizes Maketa’s press release

On June 19, the sheriff sent out press release MR 14-041, disclosing internal personnel records on Deputy Kerry Linfoot, who alleged low morale in the sheriff’s office in May.

Commissioner Dennis Hisey wrote the following in a letter to Maketa on June 19 that was sent to OCN in a county press release.

“Sheriff Maketa:

“We are in receipt of your press release MR 14-041 issued today at 3:35 p.m.

“Statements such as these represent your individual opinions and decisions and are not sanctioned or condoned by El Paso County or the Board of County Commissioners. Media releases of this sort are unacceptable and serve only to underscore the ongoing disruptions to operations as well as the lack of leadership within EPSO. Additionally, they erode confidence in your ability to lead as sheriff, and are not in the best interests of El Paso County, its employees and the taxpayers.

“Regards,

(signed)

“El Paso County Board of County Commissioners”

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

## Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31. Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter written is an OCN volunteer.

### Thanks for support in cancer battle

Dear friends and neighbors,

We, Vicki Gray and her family, would like to thank you for your love and support during Vicki’s battle with cancer. The cards and notes, the personal expressions of concern, the willingness to share memories and stories

have brought comfort to us all. We are grateful to be surrounded by such a caring community.

With heartfelt thanks,

**Vicki Gray and Jim Carter Erica, Chris, and Alexandra Olivier and Noelle Bumgarner**

### Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Celebrating Colorado

By the staff at Covered Treasures

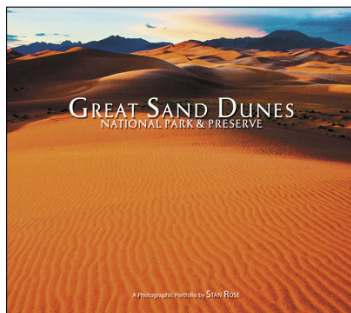
Aug. 1 is Colorado Day, commemorating the date when Colorado officially became a state, so we thought it would be appropriate to feature some books about our beautiful home. Interspersed with the reviews are some trivia questions; answers can be found at the end of the column.

- 1.) *Colorado is known as the Centennial State. Why?*

### Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve

By Stan Rose (Skyline Press) \$9.95

Just a few hours drive south lies one of our country’s newest national parks. Achieving national park status in 2004, Sand Dunes National Monument has long been an alluring, but almost other-worldly, contrast to our more common evergreen- and aspen-covered mountains. This small book captures the wonder of the dunes: through the four seasons; at sunrise, sunset, and after dark; in grand vistas and intimate close-ups.



- 2.) *Colorado is the highest state and has more mountains over 14,000 feet than any other. How many 14’ers are there and what is the name of the highest?*

### A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains

By Isabella L. Bird (University of Oklahoma Press) \$7.95

In 1873, Isabella Bird, wearing Hawaiian riding dress, rode her horse through the American Wild West, a terrain only newly opened to pioneer settlement. The letters that make up this volume, first published in 1879, tell of magnificent, unspoiled landscapes and abundant wildlife, of encounters with rattlesnakes, wolves, pumas, and grizzly bears, and her reactions to the volatile passions of the miners and pioneer settlers. She deemed it “no region for

tourists and women.”

- 3.) *The world’s largest flat-top plateau is found in Colorado. What is it called and what town does it overlook?*

### Colorado Curiosities

By Pam Grout (Globe Pequot Press) \$15.95

In her book about “quirky characters, roadside oddities, and other offbeat stuff,” Grout beckons us to venture off the road most traveled, to find the unusual. She says, “... the real beauty of Colorado is in the mindset of the people, in the willingness of Coloradans to try new things, to step out of the box, to see the world differently than CNN says it is.”

- 4.) *Mrs. J. Brown, socialite wife of a Colorado mining tycoon was immortalized in a Broadway Musical. What was the name of the musical and what was the event that it portrayed?*

### First Governor, First Lady; John & Eliza Routt of Colorado

By Loyce B. Lohse (Filter Press), \$7.50

John and Eliza Routt first came to Colorado in 1875, when John was appointed territorial governor. By the time they both died in 1907, Colorado had been a state for 31 years. John had served as governor for three terms and as Denver mayor for one term, had become a “Bonanza King” (as those who found wealth in the mining camps were called), and had overseen construction of the new state capitol. Eliza had served as the first woman on the State Board of Agriculture and had the distinction of being the first woman registered to vote in Colorado. Few people embraced Colorado as this pioneering couple did.

- 5.) *What famous memorial and cemetery focal point were built using Colorado Yule Marble?*

### Tomboy Bride: A Woman’s Personal Account of Life in Mining Camps of the West

By Harriet Fish Backus (Westwinds Press) \$16.99

Harriet Backus writes about her life as an assayer’s wife and true pioneer of the West with heart-felt emotion and

vivid detail. Sharing amusing and often challenging experiences as a new bride in the high San Juan Mountains where the Tomboy Mine operated above Telluride, she paints a poignant picture of the people and their life centered on silver mining.

- 6.) *What is Colorado’s state flower and where was it first discovered?*

### Centennial

By James Michener (Ballantine Books) \$8.99

We’ve all seen the movie, but have you read Michener’s classic saga of trappers, traders, homesteaders, gold seekers, ranchers, and hunters? The last two paragraphs may just sum up for many of us our feelings about living in Colorado: “... because at night, when I’m through workin’ I can jump into my pickup and be up in the Rockies inside of an hour—pitch my tent ... up beyond the crud, beside a real stream of water, and wake up with trees in my eyes... I live [here] because it’s maybe the best spot in America ... could even be the best remainin’ spot on earth.” It just may be.

Make it a point this summer to get out and experience our wondrous home and to read something about the dramatic events and conflicts, and the courageous men and women who shaped our legendary West. Until next month, happy reading.

### Answers:

- 1.) Colorado entered the Union in 1896, the 100th (or centennial) anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- 2.) 54; Mount Elbert
- 3.) Grand Mesa overlooks Grand Junction.
- 4.) “The Unsinkable Molly Brown” survived the sinking of the Titanic.
- 5.) The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery
- 6.) The blue columbine was first officially catalogued in Palmer Lake.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be contacted at books@ocn.me.

### HANG - High Altitude Natural Gardens

## Plant warmer-season vegetables in July

By Janet Sellers

Did you know there’s still time to start a garden this year? The Monument Community Garden is in demo mode—you can check it out on Beacon Lite Road just south of Monument Town Hall. It’s been the Tri-Lakes Gardening Community (TLGC) project for years, cared for by volunteers who plant, care for, harvest, and share with the Tri-Lakes Cares food bank.

TLGC and a youth group of Ascent Church demonstrated the “crop mob” method of making a hugelkultur raised-bed garden and an African keyhole garden in June. Enormous thanks to them for two amazing work days of creating viable family gardens on top of patches of sand and weeds.

Building these beds provided a model for our home gardeners to learn to succeed at growing food in our dry,

high altitude. Thanks to TLGC education, at least six of these home gardens popped up around town in June, and there are surely more to come.

In June 2013, the crop mob and I created my sheet mulch bed at 18 inches high. I planted onions, beans, lettuces, and chard in mid-July, and the harvest began in late August. Now that bed, still fluffy and viable, has composted down to 3 inches high. The triangular hugelkultur