

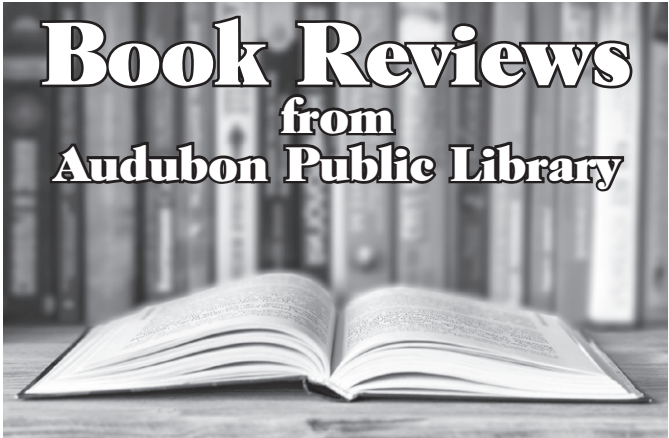
The family of
Joene Bohlmann
would like to honor her
on the occasion of her
80th birthday,
April 21, 2025
Birthday wishes may be
sent to her at
805 Iowa Dr.
Manning, IA 51455



**Brayton's Annual
Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, April 19
Old Glory Park
1:00 p.m.
Up to 12 years of age!**

Sponsored by Brayton Community Club



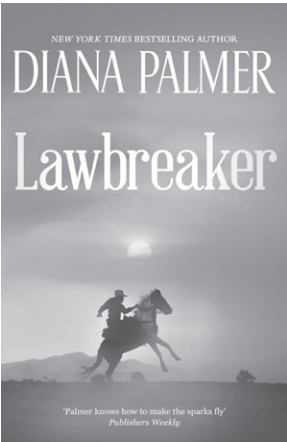
**Book Reviews
from
Audubon Public Library**

Lawbreaker
By Diana Palmer

Odalie is just trying to live and find the courage to follow her dreams of singing at the Met.

She has talent and voice, but the one thing she lacks is confidence.

Tony has confidence. A former crime boss turned art gallery owner, he may be on the up and up now (well, mostly), but that doesn't mean he is a pushover. If there is one thing he can't stand, it's distractors, and Odalie is nothing but a distraction. She is the best friend of his adopted daughter, and she seems to be everywhere.

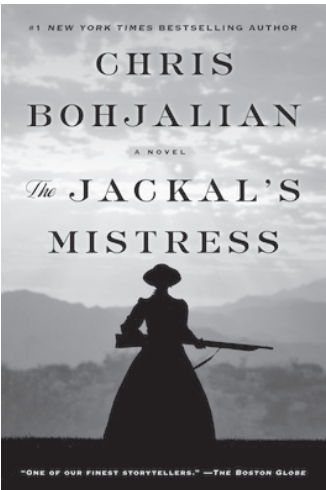


Can these two work out their differences and realize that sometimes love is worth a shot?

This is a sweet, yet heartbreaking story at times...of true love, true misery, family, friends...and mob bosses and crime and life...

The Jackal's Mistress
By Chris Bohalian

If you like a good historical novel, The Jackal's Mistress is the book for you. Chris Bohalian crafts a deeply moving story based on true facts of an unforgettable story of two people traveling the boundaries of love and humanity during the last months of the Civil War.



In 1864 Virginia, Libby Steadman longs for her Confederate husband who is imprisoned in a Union prison camp. She fears that he is dead, but continues to run her husband's family's gristmill, grinding flour for the Confederate army and keep the farm operating with the help of Joseph, a free man, and his wife, Sally. An additional responsibility is her 12 year old niece, whose father is also in the Confederate army. This was an uneasy time in the Shenandoah Valley, since this area frequently changed hands from South to North and their homestead is under constant threat of having the war come to their front doorstep.

Legal Notice

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 3rd, 2025

The special meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:31 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Kent Grabill, Lisa Frederiksen, Justin Veik, John Hansen, Diana Munch, Chassity Musfeldt, Todd Johnson, Melissa Thygesen, Paul Nielsen, Duane Landon, Tim Irlmeier, and Chris Swensen.

Motion- Grabill Second- Hansen to approve the agenda. A potential MOU for Secondary Road's PPME 2003 was discussed. The MOU presented would match the County's 2.5% wages to keep consistency across the board. Comp time amounts were discussed. Reasonings for the increased comp time maximums were to reduce the amount of paid overtime. Taxpayers voiced concerns on the extensive benefits offered to County employees. Chairman Hansen contacted HR Attorney Galloway regarding a potential MOU. Galloway advised that the County could risk being sued if the Union negotiations were re-opened. Previous discussion was held of concerns regarding the Union agreements not done according to Iowa Code, but Galloway advised they were done correctly, but in the future could be done with "best practice" of posting agendas so they public is aware.

ETI Engineer Justin Veik joined the meeting to discuss the HVAC project, address concerns, and go over final punch list items. The jail cell work was completed earlier in the week. Custodian Hansen and Veik discussed a condensation leak on pipes. The Courtroom was visited to have an updated sound reading taken. The HVAC units were turned on while Supervisors, Veik, and Attorney Swensen were present and could analyze the complaints from two separate judges on the noise levels. While the HVAC units were running, conversations held were hard to hear amongst those present. Veik discussed options to help eliminate this while Court is in session. Veik stressed that the County needs to pay the final payments on the HVAC project now that the jail work is complete. Chairman Hansen stressed that they wanted to make sure the project/punch list items are complete before issuing final payments. The warranty date reflects a substantial completion date of January 14th, 2025 because the building was able to be partially occupied. Discussion with Veik to extend the substantial completion date to reflect the date of the jail completion was proposed. The increased Mid-American bill was discussed with Veik. He will be looking into this.

Supervisors met with Sheriff Johnson and Melissa Thygesen to discuss the FY26 Sheriff's Department budget. Johnson explained that the current staff of Sheriff Deputies is on a short rotation where it is proving hard to allow time off, especially if anyone is sick. The FY26 budget included the salary of an additional Deputy to eliminate the overtime on the current staff and provide an adequate rotation. If Supervisors do not approve hiring an additional Deputy, the savings will be around \$70,000, but the amount of overtime will increase significantly. The rotation of vehicles was discussed. If another Deputy is hired, they will not be purchasing an additional vehicle. Sheriff stated that he felt the County would be better served with an additional Deputy. Body cameras and weapons were taken out of the budget, and the Department will be using the older ones to eliminate new expenses. Thygesen will email Supervisors the FY26 budgets for review. No decisions were made on any budget changes. More discussion will follow at next week's meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:14 pm.

/s/Heath Hansen Attest: /s/Chassity Musfeldt
Chairman, Board of Supervisors Audubon County
 Auditor Clerk

(Published in the *Audubon County Advocate Journal*, Friday, April 11, 2025)

Legal Notice

CITY OF EXIRA
NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION TO INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$350,000 AND PROVIDING A LEVY OF TAXES TO PAY SAME (GENERAL OBLIGATION)

The City Council of Exira shall meet on the 21st of April, 2025, at the City Hall; 108 E. Washington Street; Exira, Iowa, at 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action to enter into a loan agreement (the "Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$350,000 for expenses related equipping the fire department.

The Loan Agreement is proposed to be entered into pursuant to authority contained in Section 384.24A of the Code of Iowa and will constitute a general obligation of the City.

At that time and place, oral or written objections may be filed or made to the proposal to enter into the Loan Agreement. After receiving objections, the City may determine to enter into the Loan Agreement, in which case, the decision will be final unless appealed to the District Court within fifteen (15) days thereafter. Please call City Hall at 712-268-2187 with questions.

By order of the City Council of the City of Exira, Iowa.
(Published in the *Audubon County Advocate Journal*, Friday, April 11, 2025)

Landus Names EVP of Sales, Sam Caton, Interim CEO

DES MOINES — Landus announces Sam Caton as its interim CEO effective today. Caton will maintain his responsibilities as executive vice president of sales while stepping in to lead the cooperative as interim CEO.



Sam Caton, Interim CEO

"We have full confidence in Sam's abilities to guide Landus forward as the interim CEO. His sincere appreciation for the farmer-owners we serve has quickly built trust within the organization and helped him develop a deep understanding of our operations and vision," says Chairman of the Board Matt Chambers. "We have full faith in his leadership as we start the next chapter at Landus and implement the search to identify our next CEO."

Caton brings more than two decades of agricultural industry experience to the interim CEO role. Previously, as the business unit director of the Northern Region at Simplot, Caton demonstrated exceptional leadership in managing complex business integrations. He is an established forward-thinking leader in agricultural business and technology adoption but doesn't shy away from his roots. Before moving into sales, Caton owned and operated an 8,000-acre family farm and cattle ranch, an experience that equipped him with an authentic understanding of agricultural operations from the ground up.

Caton's first order of business will be leading the search for Landus' next CEO, which will start

with listening to the farmer-owners within the cooperative.

"I'm honored, and frankly humbled, to be trusted with the exciting task of leading Landus forward, and I know the best way to do so is with the guidance of our farmers," Caton says. "I'll be establishing an open line of communication with our farmer-owners to hear directly from them on what they want to see from the next CEO of the cooperative, and I look forward to working with our board to identify the next leader of Landus."

During this transition, Landus remains steadfast in its commitment to its farmer-owners, employees, business partners and the future of agriculture. To learn more about the ways that Landus serves these communities and the

About Landus

Landus is a forward-thinking agriculture solutions company that keeps the farmer at the center of every decision we make. We connect thousands of farmer-owners with the world through grain, agronomy, and distribution, deploying traditional and nontraditional methods fueled by innovation and sustainability. Our \$3 billion business touches 34 states and 16 countries. To learn more about Landus, and the company's commitment to solving critical issues for the farmer of tomorrow, please visit: landus.ag.

Legal Notice

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
March 25th, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:05 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Kent Grabill, Don Mosinski, Lisa Frederiksen, Chassity Musfeldt, Rob Welch, John Hansen, Todd Johnson, Nathan Wahlert, Paul Nielsen, Tom Chambers, Randy Dreher, Dan Madsen, Paul Nielsen, Ron Mullenger, Peggy Smalley, Bruce Haag, Gary Olsen, Jotham Arber, Justin Veik/ETI- phone, and Mitch Rydl- phone.

Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve the agenda. Vote-all in favor. Custodian Hansen presented the bid for the jail finishing work from Twin Construction. Recent tariffs have increased the pricing of materials. Motion-Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the bid from Twin Construction for the jail work. Vote-all in favor. Custodian Hansen presented readings of the sound levels in the Courtroom. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the meeting minutes of 3-18-25. Vote-all in favor. Public comment was opened at 9:20 am. No comments were made from the public.

Various taxpayers met with Supervisors at 9:30 am to discuss several areas of concern. Chairman Hansen stated that Secondary Roads and Sheriff's Department are working on areas where the departments can lower the budget. The Supervisors acknowledged that paying down the County debts needs to be prioritized. Taxpayers stressed that excess in each Department's budgets needs to be reviewed and cut down. Questions were asked about the TIF dollars and what the County would do if those were unavailable. Chairman Hansen said the County would probably have not been able to do several projects without the TIF funding. Taxpayers questioned the \$30 million that has been bonded for in the last 6 years. Excessive expenses of several projects were another area of concern, such as the cabins at Littlefield and the HVAC project. The idea of having the Littlefield/Conservation Department be self-sustaining was discussed. Taxpayers inquired about the large amounts being paid towards family health insurance verse just offering the full single plan, costing the County over \$530,000 a year. The raises being given while the County is in such a huge deficit were questioned. Hansen explained the Compensation Board and how the raises are calculated for recommendation to the Supervisors. Taxpayers asked if the raises were consistent across each Department as budget reports showed various amounts that were not consistent. Hansen stated that all Departments are receiving a 2.5% across the board except for the Secondary Roads Union at \$1/hour. Auditor Frederiksen stated that when the Compensation Board does the comparisons and formulas to give a recommended raise percentage, they do not factor the benefits into that formula. Chairman Hansen said some of the salaries are currently set higher than the average and the Supervisors will be looking into getting them to where they need to be within the next couple years, even if it means having a lower percentage than other Departments. Supervisors have opted to receive a 0% increase this coming fiscal year. New legislation has made it that the Supervisors can give a higher raise than the Compensation Board's recommendations, but they cannot go lower than it. Taxpayers suggested having new employees/newly elected officials start at a lower rate, instead of automatically receiving what the prior experienced employee was earning when their employment ended. Taxpayers inquired about the proposed Union agreements and if the Compensation Board takes those into recommendation when making their decision. The Union Negotiations were decided prior to the Compensation Board meeting for the FY26 wages. Chairman Hansen said in this upcoming year they will have the Compensation Board meet before the Union Negotiations are completed, so they can take those into consideration.

Conservation Director Bruce Haag and Board Members met with the Supervisors to discuss the FY26 budget. Taxpayers had concerns on the Conservation budget/expenses versus what will be brought in with the cabin revenues. Haag explained that they have been able to do many projects from various grants they've received. The cabin project was done with a lot of in-house labor, and the engineering was done without the expenses of hiring contractors. Supervisors inquired about the cabin expenses/revenues and what a reasonable estimate would be. Haag said the first year that they are all up and running will give a good estimate of the expenses/revenues. Supervisor Mosinski stressed that when taxpayers inquire, the County should be able to relay transparency regarding these concerns on the budget. Haag said they will start reserving the Cabins around April/May this year. Haag stated that up until the cabin project, Conser-

vation has been able to use the Park Improvement/REAP funds for any expenses except employee wages. Discussion on the open position at Conservation was held and if it could potentially be eliminated. The Conservation Board had some concerns of the workload for the employees if the open position is not filled. The idea of having extra as-needed or a part-time employee was discussed. Camping/firewood revenues are currently split 50/50 between Park Improvement/County. The Supervisors proposed the idea of having the County retain 100% of the Cabin Revenue. Conservation Director and Board members had concerns that if the County had 100% of the Cabin Revenue, they would be unable to access those funds for immediate purchases if needed. Supervisors explained that if they have a project or item that needs purchased that would require those funds, they can come to the Board of Supervisors and ask. It was stressed that the County can not function without roads and law enforcement, but can function without Conservation, so it is crucial the budget is analyzed to reduce debts. Supervisors agreed to keep 100% of the Cabin Revenue but were not opposed to revisiting the topic after the cabins after been operable for a year.

Public Health updates were given by Jotham Arber. There is a new Social Worker helping provide wrap around services for Audubon County. The HOPES program will be transitioning to PATS. Public Health is currently providing the MMR vaccine to those who would like it. The State of Iowa is reimbursing landowners \$700 towards well plugging and \$1000 towards well rehab.

Motion- Mosinski Second-Grabill to approve claims as submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$35,803.40 and published at the end of the month. Vote-all in favor. Supervisors called ETI/Justin Veik to follow up on yesterday's meeting regarding the decisions on the jail cell. Veik stated that ETI would be willing to reimburse \$4,800 towards the jail cell work. Supervisors stressed that this should not have been pushed out so long and is very disheartening. Meeting went into recess at 12:54 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 3:01 pm. Motion- Mosinski Second-Grabill to approve Hiring Resolution 2025-15 as follows.

Resolution 2025-15
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Audubon County, Board of Supervisors, that effective March 31st, 2025, Jonathan Halterman, be employed as Full Time Roadside/Non-Union employee. Starting wage will be \$22.31/hr. with benefits as per the contract between Audubon County and Public, Professional and Maintenance Employees, Local Union #2003, excluding longevity. A \$.25/hr. increase will be made after successfully obtaining a Commercial Pesticide License with Category 6 endorsement. Future wage increases shall follow Grade 1 Classification Equipment Operator A fiscal year percentage increase and step experience wage increases. Insurance coverage shall begin May 1st, 2025.

Passed and approved this 25th day of March, 2025.
Board of Supervisors
Audubon County, Iowa
/s/Heath Hansen ATTEST By:/s/ Chassity Musfeldt
Motion- Mosinski Second-Grabill to approve Mid-American Utility Permit, Section 6, T80N R35W(Leroy Township) Goldfinch Ave. Supervisor Mosinski stated that he will reach out to the State Auditors regarding ACED. Engineer Rydl was called to discuss the bid letting from earlier in the day for the Lark Ave project. Rydl said the bids came in lower than anticipated. Supervisors agreed to eliminate hiring an additional full-time employee/Cabin Manager at Conservation to help the budget. Supervisor Grabill will reach out to let Conservation Director Haag know of this decision. 28E agreements were reviewed. Chairman Hansen will set up a work session after contacting Simmering Corey regarding the status of the ordinances. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

/s/Heath Hansen Attest: /s/Chassity Musfeldt
Chairman, Board of Supervisors Audubon County Auditor Clerk
(Published in the *Audubon County Advocate Journal*, Friday, April 11, 2025)