

Author Ann Hanigan Kotz talks about moonshine in Iowa at Williamsburg Public Library April 2. (Winona Whitaker/Hometown Current)

Tales of making moonshine in Iowa

Author tells story of bootlegging in historical novel

By Winona Whitaker, Hometown Current

WILLIAMSBURG While researching a historical novel, Ann Hanigan Kotz learned a lot about prohibition and bootlegging.

Kotz paired that knowledge with her imagination and created a novel centered on Iowa's bootlegging history before and during Prohibition.

Kotz talked about Iowa's alcohol history at the Marengo and Williamsburg libraries April 2.

Born and raised in Iowa, Kotz is originally from Denison but now lives in Adel. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and taught English to 15- and 16-year-olds for

33 years.

than book about bootlegging. It became a book about why one county defied state law, said Kotz.

When writing a historical fiction you have to do research, said Kotz. "History is far more interesting than what I can imagine," she said.

Kotz read countless newspaper articles about the temperance movement and prohibition in Iowa from the mid-19th century. She met with Keith Kerkhoff, one of the founders of Templeton Distillery and grandson of a bootlegger, to gain insight in the industry.

In 1851, Iowa's General Assembly prohibited dram shops, or bars, and in 1855 restricted the sale of alcohol. A lot of Iowans were German and Irish, said Kotz. They liked to drink, and they fought the closures.

The law was eventually overturned, but the temperance movement was growing across the United States. In 1882, Iowa was dry again. Voters approved a constitutional amendment that prohibited the sale, manufacture, and consumption of alcohol, making Iowa a dry state. The law had to pass two consecutive years, said Kotz, but in the second year, it passed in a different form (1889). The "wets, those against prohibition, said the law was illegal, and the Iowa Supreme Court agreed. In 1906, Iowa had 1,770 saloons, said Kotz. Evervone drank beer because Iowa water was toxic, she said. Even children drank watered down beer. The saloon was also very alive, full of cursing, not a place for decent women, said Kotz. "It was the social clubs of the day," she said.

sumption of alcohol seemed a way to save their families.

Annie Whittenmyer, of Keokuk, held the first meeting of the Women's **Christian Temperence** Union and also fought for suffrage, said Kotz.

Ida B. Wise, of Hamburg, joined WCTU in 1891. She was president of the Iowa organization in 1913 and national president in 1923. She later became an ordained minister.

Myrtle Cook was the president of the WCTU in Vinton and was leader of the Benton County Ku Klux Klan Women's organization. The KKK hated Blacks, but it also hated Germans, Catholics and Jews, said Kotz.

Cook's hatred extended to bootleggers. She made a list of Benton County bootleggers which newspapers printed.

On Sept. 7, 1925, Cook was shot to death through a kitchen win-



LEGAL NOTICES

April 3, 2025 The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Jason Roudabush, Jacki Bolen, and Jeff Tindle Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to Aboved by Bolen, 21d by Rodaldush Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve March 31, 2025, board minutes.

Sayes. Motion carried. Kristin Fantazia, General Assistance Director, met for weekly meeting. Bolen attended the county safety Bolen attended the county safety meeting Tuesday and the Grinnell Food Coalition meeting Wednesday. Tindle has a Middle Iowa Watershed meeting today.

. attended Pow Roudabush 1-80 Economic Development meeting Wednesday Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush at

9:49 a.m. to adjourn. Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor

Jeff Tindle, Chairman **BGM COMMUNITY** SCHOOL DISTRICT March 26, 2025

School DistRicf March 26, 2025 Special BOARD MINUTES The BGM Board held a hearing for property taxes for the 2026 School Year. Roll Call resulted in Stacia Brown, Kayleen Tometich, Eric Hodina, and Sammy Kuntz being present. Kelly Kriegel, Craig Kalinay and Pat Coleman were absent. Also present was Brady Miller, Superintendent Hohensee, Craig Lang, Mary Lang, and Dane Lang. Kuntz called the hearing to order. The Board participated in discussions on the proposed tax levy for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Discussion closed at 4:10pm Discussion closed at 4:10pm The next regular meeting of the Board of directors will take place Wednesday April 9th, 2025 at 7:00PM. Hodina moved to adiourn the meeting at 4:10pm. Brown seconded. Brady Miller, Board Secretary

Craig Kuntz, Board President

March 31, 2025 The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Jason Roudabush, Jacki Bolen, and Jeff Tingle.

bud allit, when bers present based Roudabush, Jacki Bolen, and Jeff Tindle. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve agenda. 3 ayes Motion carried. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve March 27, 2025 board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Tylor Nelson, Conservation Director, met with the board to discuss the possible purchase of 4 to 5 county emergency communication radios to use while conducting safe coordination of conservation prescribed burns in places where it is not feasible to rely on cellular service. Nelson received information on the radios from Emergency Management Director Brian Paul. Nelson stated that these radios are restricted from law enforcement communications but do have the capability of communicating with emergency management, fire, emergency motical services, etc., as well as the ability to create a channel specific for conservation. These radios could also be utilized by others in the county during emergency situations. Nelson will obtain a quote and provide if to the board. Board will determine if this fits under the "emergency communications" project with a decision at a future board meeting. Kristin Fantazia, General Assistance Director, rescheduled her meeting to Thursday. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to

A. Hall Trucking LLC Contract Rock

A. Hall Frucking LLC Contract Rock 3,222.27 Agri Vation LLC Contract Rock 5,277.84 Alexander Sandeen Reimb Goods 250.00 All American Pest Control Svc 43.00 Alliant Energy/IPL Svc 1,694.66 Amazon Capital Services Inc Goods

Amazon Capital Services inclosure 150.90 American Home Finding Assn Svc 1,306.20 American Topper & Accessories Goods

Any Andrews Durbin Reimb Goods 132.22 APS Lighting & Safety Products Goods

155.20 Arrowhead Scientific Inc Goods 140.86 Arrowhead Scientific Inc Goods 140.86 Audas Sanitation Svc 288.45 Awards Unlimited Goods 212.00 Bart Klaver Reimb Goods 205.00 Benton County Sheriff Svc 118.00 Bill Massengale Trucking Contract Rock 3,224.46 Black Baic Court Benorting Svc 11.50 Black Rain Court Reporting Svc 11.50

Bob Barker Co Inc Goods 34.04 Buehneman Trucking Contract Rock 3,181.34 5,101.34 Central Iowa Detention Ctr Svc 3,481.50 Central Salt, LLC Goods 23,603.60 Chemsearch Svc 194.95 Chris Nolte Mil 114.00 Precision Concrete Inc Contract Rock 1,743.02 Premier Office Equip/RK Dixon Svc 202.58

Quill Corporation Goods 119.08 Rebeline Trucking LLC Contract Rock 4,368.03

4,368.03 Reliance Telephone Inc Svc 73.25 Robert Collum Mil 23.30 Rohrer Brothers Inc Contract Rock 6,917.88 Russ Schuck Svc 6.99 Rvan Miller Reimb Goods 319.36 Sadler Power Train Goods 349.70 Sandy Ross Mil Reimb Goods 93.60 Schumacher Elevator Co Svc 318.20 Schwarz Forensic Enterprises Inc Svc 400.00

400.00

400.00 SCI Communications Inc Goods 618.36 Scott Nikkel Trucking LLC Contract Rock 8,909.49 Shane Gibson Svc 2,635.17 Shi International Corp Goods 331.88 Shirley Milburn Mil 26.40 Snap On Tools Goods 669.75 Stellar Industries Inc Svc 542.59 Steve Link Ford Svc 670.75 Steven D Schuldt Row 1,117.00 Storey Kenworthy Goods 208.04 Storey Kenworthy Goods 208.04 Storm Water Supply, LLC Goods

10,432.69 Sully Construction Inc Contract Rock 4,950.49 Sweeney Court Reporting Svc Svc

299.75 Tanner Stek Contract Rock 2,582.63 Tanner Stek Contract Rock 2,582.63 Tavlor Auto Body, Inc Goods 60.00 Tifco Industries, Inc. Goods 1,883.47 TIP Rural Electric Coop Svc 575.32 Tompkins Industries, Inc Svc 83.52 Tylor Nelson Reimb Goods 256.64 United States Cellular Svc 276.13 UPH-GRMC Occ Med Svc 781.00 Uwe Meyer Mil 26.34 Valsoft Corporation Inc Svc 175.00 Vertis Svc 101.60 Verizon Svc 234.88 Vestis Svc 101.60 Vicator Oil, Inc. Goods 1,066.88 Visa Goods 4,183.32 West Payment Center Svc 464.25 West Wondstream Svc 408.30 Windstream Svc 408.30 Winth Machine & Fabrication LLC Svc 1.840.00 1,840.00 WMPF Group LLC Svc 696.18 Xerox Financial Services Svc 767.89

3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush, to Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush, to approve an amendment to Poweshiek County Health Plan Trust Agreement naming successor trustee Melissa Eilander, County Auditor, and authorize the chair to sign. 3 aves. Motion carried. Sandy Ross, Treasurer, ioined the meeting to update the board regarding a county-held tax sale certificate for property in Searsboro. Ross stated that someone has expressed interest in this property. This is property the county has held certificate to since the 2015 tax has held certificate to since the 2015 tax

Board of Supervisors will attend the Assessor Conference Board meeting tonight Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush at

10:11 a.m. to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor Jeff Tindle, Chairman

Auditor Jeff Tindle, Chairman NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS CASE NO. ESPRO19966 THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR POWESHIEK COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOAN M. HALL, Deceased To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Joan M. Hall, Deceased, who died on or about March 14, 2025: You are hereby notified that on March 27, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Joan M. Hall, deceased, bearing date of July 9, 2015, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Royal Roland was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred. Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated March 27, 2025. Royal Roland, Executor of Estate 808 4th Ave

Grinnell, IA 50112 Thomas M. Buchanan, ICIS#: AT0001162 Attorney for Executor Bloethe, Elwood & Buchanan Law Office 702 Third St, PO Box L Victor, IA 52347

Date of second publication the 11th day of April, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO FILL THE VACANCY OF POWESHIEK COUNTY TREASURER The office of the Poweshiek County Treasurer will be vacant on June 30, 2025. The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors intends to fill this vacancy by appointment as authorized by lowa Code 69.14A(2)(a) until the next pending election as defined in section 69.12. The appointment will be effective luk appointment will be effective July

2025 Electors of Poweshiek County have the

2025. Electors of Poweshiek County have the right to file a petition under Iowa Code 69.14A to request that the vacancy be filled by a special election. The petition shall be filed within 14 days of the appointment and shall meet the requirements Iowa Code 331.306, which in part states the petition must be signed by a number equal or greater than at least ten (10%) percent of the votes cast in the County for the office of President at the preceding General Election, which equals 1,002 signatures. Letters of Interest and Resumes will be accepted by the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors to fill the vacancy of Poweshiek County Treasurer. Successful applicants must be detail-oriented and have organizational skills, computer skills, and customer service skills. Experience in a supervisory position and knowledge in finance is preferred. Please submit a letter of interest and resume to Poweshiek County Auditor's Office, 302 E. Main St, PO Box 57, Montezuma, IA 50171, or email

email to meilander@poweshiekcounty.org by 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2025. Postmark does not count, and emails must be in the inbox by 4:00 p.m. Applicants must be residents of Poweshiek County for at least sixty (60) days before the time of appointment. Call 641-623-5443 with any question

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'Secretly most English teachers want to write a book," said Kotz. She wrote her first book for herself, a fictionalized tale from research about her own family who farmed in the Loess Hills.

"I had a couple of stories, and I basically fictionalized the rest of the book."

The novel, "The Journey of Karoline Olsen," was picked up by a publisher, and readers asked for a sequel. They wanted to know what happened to Karoline Olsen.

Kotz wrote "Sons and Daughters" to continue Olsen's story. She's put together a third book about the family, but it hasn't been published yet.

While researching her novels, Kotz learned a lot about the prohibition era. "I have always been interest in bootlegging," she said. And Carroll County, just east of Crawford County where she grew up, was "the biggest bootlegging county in Iowa.'

Kotz created a character named Frank Hogan in "Sons and Daughters." "He's a little bit of a shifty character," she said. She decided to make him a bootlegger and write a novel called "Moonshine by Moonlight.'

She eventually made Frank a rum runner instead, but tales of bootlegging remain prevalent in the novel.

Yet the book is more

In 1916, Iowa again prohibited alcohol. Iowa, Ohio and Main were the only three 'dry" states in the U.S.

Until 1920. From 1920 to 1933, the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcohol were banned nationwide.

The road to prohibition was paved by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, said Kotz.

Men would take their paychecks to saloons and come home broke and sometimes violent. Prohibiting the con-

There were many names for whiskey. Iowa coined the term "white lightening," said Kotz. Straight out of the still, whiskey is clear.

White lightening didn't bring in as much money, but aging the whiskey was more dangerous because it had to be hidden from federal agents.

In Carroll County they'd hide jars of whiskev in corncribs and behind false walls and under false floors, said Kotz.

"The quality of the whiskey in Carroll County was legendary," said Kotz. It was a favorite of Al Capone.

Alcohol was sold clandestinely along mail routes, at drop points in cemeteries and at speakeasies, like the Lighthouse Inn in Cedar Rapids which recently burned down

By 1930, 49% of people in jails were bootleggers, said Kotz. Some judges were tired of this. Even law enforcement wasn't fully behind prohibition.

Prohibition was repealed in 1933. President Franklin Roosevelt didn't want to use resources fighting it in the middle of a depression, said Kotz.

Iowa still has bootleggers today, said Kotz. "It's a lot cheaper than regular whiskey cause they aren't paying taxes."

"Moonshine by Moonlight" is available at annhkbooks.com/ shop.

Chris Noite Mil 114.00 Cintas Corporation Goods 71.86 Clements Law And Mediation LLC Svc 228.00 Cole Rozendaal Reimb Goods 15.00 Consolidated Memt Co Svc 36,985.16 Craig Kuntz Mil Reimb Goods 557.10 Cyclone Pest Svc 85.00 Daniel Shreur Reimb Phone 44.99 David D Menninga Reimb Goods 139.54 Davis Trucking Contract Rock 8,683.21 Dental Associates Svc 664.00 Derek Ivan & Megan Schwarting Row 6,603.00

6,603.00 Dixie M Hudnut Mil 30.00 DJ Hendrix Reimb Goods 73.19 DIt Solutions LLC Svc 5,584.54 Drivers License Guide Company Goods 33.95 33.95 Ed Evans Mil 145.20 Electrical Engineering & Equip Svc

575.00 Electrical Engineering & Equip Svc

Electrical Engineering & Equip Svc 675.00 Enviro Control Solutions Inc Svc 925.17 Fareway Stores Inc Goods 225.00 Fonda Benson Mil 26.40 Foundation 2 Svc 1,306.20 Frank Heinen Mil 106.80 Freds Muffler Shop, Inc Goods 1,148.20 French-Reneker-Associates, Inc Svc 20,555.00

20,555.00 G Squared Trucking Contract Rock 6,517.37

6,517.37 Galls Inc Goods 1,023.76 Galyn Nook Mil 80.36 Goodwin Tucker Group Svc 1,733.09 Gordon Flesch Company Inc Svc 194.00 Grinnell Firestone Svc 646.54 Grinnell Reraid Register Svc 448.52 Grinnell Regional Public Health Svc 33,463.36

33,463.36 Hall Trucking LLC Contract Rock 12,346.50

12,346.50 Heartland Shredding Inc Svc 498.00 Helmuth Repair, Inc Goods 147.82 Hometown Hardware Goods 142.48 IACCVSO Svc 75.00 ICIT Svc 425.00 Illowa Culvert & Supply Goods 9,269.00 Infomax Svc 250.00 Iowa Dept Of Public Health Svc 6,446.60 Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Svc 625.00

lowa Edw Chineter Field Academy Svc 625.00 Iowa Prison Industries Goods 3,309.30 IP Pathways Svc 1,510.53 ISACA Svc 240.00 ISSDA Svc 250.00 JCO, LLC Row 9,146.00 JD Griffith Reimb Goods 11.40 Jeff Criswell Reimb Goods 235.33 John Deere Financial Svc 454.04 Joe Meyer Reimb Goods 235.33 John Deere Financial Svc 454.04 Johnson County Sheriff Svc 200.00 JOR Bros, Inc Row 8,575.00 Key Cooperative Svc 971.68 Kleinschmidt Trucking Contract Rock 941.73 625.00

Kleinschmidt i rucking Contract Rock 941.73 Labor Law Posters Goods 35.85 Lacaevse Lawn Care & Snow Svc 900.00 Lawrence Wilson Mil 37.20 Legal & Liability Risk Mgmt Inst Svc 175.00

175.00 Linder Tire Service, Inc. Svc 75.88 Live Deep Publishing LLC Svc 64.00 Lowry Electric Goods 510.00 Mahaska Communication Group Svc

Mahaska Communication Group Svc 705.73 Mail Services LLC Svc 742.10 Mainstay Systems Svc 237.00 Manatis Inc Goods 17,565.34 Matthew Goodrich Reimb Goods 55.97 Maxim Advertising Goods 394.00 MCI Svc 41.19 Melissa Eliander Mil 229.10 Mid American Energy Svc 89.90 Montezuma Municipal Utilities Svc 6,575.85

6,575.85 New Century F.S. Inc Goods 300.37 Pat Gustafson Mil 26.40 Pauls Ace Hardware Inc Goods 99.98

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