For Benda, family is what brought her back

Editor's Note: This is the second installment of a Monday series looking at area people who grew up here, live here, and are impacting the lives of those around them.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A decision to return to your hometown can be made out of necessity or choice. But it’s when the decision results in the good fortune of the family and the community that the decision becomes one of example.

The name Benda has been a strong name in Fort Madison for generations, but the familiarity has been enhanced by the decision of Rachel and Adam Benda who brought their family back after growing up in Fort Madison and Donnellson in the 80s. As part of that decision, the Bendas have been raising a family in Fort Madison while also giving of their time to create a stronger and more vibrant community.

But Rachel is quick to say that the move was selfish in motive because both hers and Adam’s family are in the area and the move has allowed them to remember their roots, while helping building a better future.

Adam grew up in Fort Madison and I grew up in Montrose and went to Central Lee,” Rachel said. “He says I was too stuck in Montrose and went to Madison and I grew up better future.

After a brief stint in Texas following Adam’s service to the U.S. Army, the two began considering moving back to Fort Madison.

“Adam had just gotten out of the army. We’d had Aiden, he’s a Tex- that’s how we raised the baby. So we decided that if we moved back here we would have a more stable environment with more family around who were willing to help. And, if we moved back here we knew we would mess with Mike Benda’s grandson.” It was security and comfort that brought the Bendas home, but it’s Rachel’s hope to give something back to the community that has pro- vided her with memories and a future.

Benda began her career in Fort Madison with Shopko and then went to the Convention and Visitors Bureau and now she is program director at The Kensington.

“The CVB was a great job with good people,” she said. “It was fun and I got to market this town that I believe in. Then I got this great opportunity to come to work at The Kensington. This is a really great job and AgeMark, the company that owns us, is big into giving back to the community, so they support these efforts. “I don’t know... I just felt like this is just a good place to raise the kids. Everyone knows each other and some people see that as bad thing because everyone’s always up in everyone’s business, but I don’t buy that.”

“It’s small town, everyone knows everyone.”

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“It’s small town, everyone knows everyone.”

happy and always treated us with respect, but still knew us as old homies.

“I think that for people in a small town, that quality is something that can be really valuable. When you meet someone for the first time and they already know your name and your story, you can’t help but feel welcomed.”

Rachel is not the only one with family ties to the area as her brother and sister-in-law, Matt and Rick Mohrfeld, have also returned.

“Honestly, Matt Mohrfeld pushed me into it and said “Rachel you should do this.” And he was a big part of it at the beginning but then said he would help where needed, but he should keep moving with it,” she said. “I’m not sure how I got to be the chair, but I could only do it if they (the committee) do their part. I call them often and I have multiple people, my mother-in-law is a big part handling the financial stuff, and Emily Buddenstadl at Lee County Health Department doing grant writing. We’ve got two or three from Fort Madison Community Hospital, Chuck Osmanski and Larry Smith have gotten the Rotary involved doing a rest area in the first phase. Larry Driscoll is invaluable to us and is a big believer in it. Everybody on there, we’ve had our bumps along the way, but has made it very characteristic that landed Benda in one of her current volunteer roles as chair of the PORT (Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails) committee, in Fort Madison. PORT has successfully built their 1st phase of a 3-phase trail system that will eventually go from Bluff Road on the west side of Aztec Park Trailer Court to Ivanhoe Park and then west along the southern property line of the Middle School campus and then along the Baxter Sports Complex west to the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

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Local News

County Task Force nabs Fort Madison woman on drug charge

POC STAFF

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison, Iowa woman on a felony drug charge.

Lisa Marie Johnson, 28, of 3023 Avenue K, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on February 10, 2017 on a felony drug charge. Johnson is charged with Aiding And Abetting The Delivery Of Methamphetamine Less Than Five Grams Within 1,000 Feet Of A Public Park, a class C felony with an enhancement. If convicted, Johnson faces up to 15 years in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Johnson stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. The Lee County Attorney’s Office and the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

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Benda balances home, volunteerism

"No matter what, I’m super happy where I’m at. I get to wake up every morning in a place where I’m happy... in a wonderful community with like-minded people."

-Rachel Benda
FM Volunteer

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All about the family

Pictured with vacation photos of her and her family, Rachel Benda, a Donnellson native and current Fort Madison resident, says family and a commitment to her hometown is what brought her back to Fort Madison.

"There are good people. There are great people out here. It’s a community with a family and help the community was a path to her dreams, but everyone should follow their own. However, she advises those getting ready for college or trying to figure out a path for their life, to keep an eye on your hometown.

"Follow your dreams," she said. "My dream was to just play a sport in college. I wasn’t very good, but I had a lot of heart and I enjoyed it and got a great education. I was very lucky and was able to move forward with my dreams. But go do that and experience things, but then bring your talents back here. I know people who would love to be back here, but it just here," she said. "You go into the different clubs and groups that support community involvement and make this a better place for everyone."

Adam and Rachel have three children now, Aiden, 11, another son Rowan is 7 and a daughter, Landry, 5, who Benda said is named after Dallas Cowboys former Head Coach Tom Landry as the family is huge Cowboys fans. "No matter what, I’m super happy where I’m at. I get to wake up every morning in a place where I’m happy... in a wonderful community with like-minded people."

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2017 Fort Madison Bloodhounds Basketball

Above, Logan Rashid looks for a lane against Mt. Pleasant. Below, Shance Redd-Donald pulls up for a jumper against the Panthers. Below left, Elijah Barnes goes for a block from behind, and below far right, CJ Richardson drives for an easy layup against Illini West.

Above CJ Richardson on his usual quickness to the basket, while at right, Lorenzo Riles waits for a clearing from a defender. Below right, senior Austin Rose works the inside game with a Notre Dame defender.

Above, Logan Rashid looks for a lane against Mt. Pleasant. Below, Shance Redd-Donald pulls up for a jumper against the Panthers. Below left, Elijah Barnes goes for a block from behind, and below far right, CJ Richardson drives for an easy layup against Illini West.
At left, Treavor James-Kokjohn tries to score inside against Mt. Pleasant at home. Above right, Head Coach Ryan Wilson gives direction on the road. Below, seniors Austin Rose and CJ Richardson tear the sign on Senior Night.

Above, Kaleb Cresswell reaches for the basket in a game against Central Lee, while below left, Logan Rashid looks for help inside, below center senior Landon Bentley scoops for two and bottom right, James-Kokjohn pulls up for a short jumper.
2017 Holy Trinity Catholic

At right, sophomore Mya Lawlor drives against Notre Dame, while below left, Madison Mohrfeld gets tangled up in a rebound. Below center, senior Ali Randolph goes up for a shot at Notre Dame and at bottom right, Samantha Hoenig brings the ball up against Wapello.

Above, sophomore Taylor Boeding tried to get the ball inside to junior Madison Mohrfeld. At right, sophomore Emily Box blocks a shot. At left, junior Brett Schneider looks for room against Notre Dame.

At right, sophomore Mya Lawlor drives against Notre Dame, while below left, Madison Mohrfeld gets tangled up in a rebound. Below center, senior Ali Randolph goes up for a shot at Notre Dame and at bottom right, Samantha Hoenig brings the ball up against Wapello.
At left, sophomore Taylor Boeding drives for an elevated shot, while bottom left, sophomore Emily Box tries to put up against New London. Bottom center, senior Maggie Walker blocks a Cardinal shot, at bottom right freshman Avery Hopper tries to score.

At left, Head Coach Tony Johnson rallies the troops, while bottom left, sophomore Mya Lawlor gets loose on fast break against Wapello. At right, senior Ali Randolph posts up Notre Dame’s Emma Lynch.
Below, junior Kamryn Bailey drives against Keokuk at home, while center below, junior Taylor Shannon pulls up for a jumper in the lane. Below right, senior Mariah Trimble fights for a rebound.

Above, seniors Emily Mitchell (31) and Mercedes Trimble (35) work the offense. At right, junior Amber Dilsaver puts up a short jumper, while at left, senior Brittney Harris drives against Holy Trinity. Below, Mitchell looks for help.
Fort Madison Bloodhound Girls Basketball
Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

At left, junior Kamryn Bailey drives to the hoop, while below left, freshman Anna Kester shoots a short runner. Bottom center, sophomore Jassmine Bass gets tied up with a Keokuk defender and bottom right, senior Brittiney Harris pulls up against Keokuk.

At left, senior Mariah Trimble puts up a shot in the lane. Above right, Head Coach Charlie Knipe huddles the team for strategy and at right, senior Mercedes Trimble drives the baseline.

At left, junior Kamryn Bailey drives to the hoop, while below left, freshman Anna Kester shoots a short runner. Bottom center, sophomore Jassmine Bass gets tied up with a Keokuk defender and bottom right, senior Brittiney Harris pulls up against Keokuk.
Below left, Reed Fehseke drives the baseline. Below center Bailey Merschman gets double teamed by Notre Dame’s Matt Meeker (2) and Jack Giannettino (32) and below right, Josh Pieper tries to get inside position on a Waco player earlier this year.

Above, Collin Thornton looks for help during a game at Notre Dame. At right, Cory Hopper tries to score on a drive against Central Lee, while at left, Bailey Merschman looks to score inside. Below, Milo Orton shows intensity in the lane.
At left, senior Jack Stinson Jr., posts up and at right top, Cory Hopper performs one of his signature hangin’ moves against Danville. At right, Connor Conrad drives on New London’s Keontae Luckett.

At right, Brant Holtkamp gets a pick from Nathan Bredemeyer, while far left below, Ben Tinguely drives in an earlier game this year, while at center bottom Connor Hellweg throws up a one-handed runner. At far right below, Nick Pothitakis looks to get open against a Danville defender.
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LOCATION: Correctional Center
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Montrose, IA 52639
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Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Agenda
Tuesday, January 31, 2017

CONVENCING TIME: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Correctional Center,
253-255th Street, Montrose, IA 52639
AGENDA
Pledge of Allegiance
Personnel Actions:
Amending Title 1, Chapter 19 of the City Code

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notices whereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 p.m. on February 21, 2017, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, to consider a proposal to amend the City Code of Fort Madison, Chapter 32, Personnel, as written. Written statements may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 7, 2017, or delivered before the hearing is closed. Melinda L. Blind
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2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
733 sq. ft. • 9,116 sq. ft. lot
Country living in the city! Large fenced lot with garden including blackberry bushes, grapes, rhubarb, and asparagus, along with apple and peach trees. Large shop attached to the garage and a storage shed. Sit on the front deck and enjoy the country scenery! In Farmington.
Listing #20163103 • $39,999

3BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage
1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres
Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanics and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don’t miss out on this beauty.
Listing #20163951 • $139,000

5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage
2,834 sq. ft.
14,868 sq. ft. lot
Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!
Listing #20164117 • $127,500

2BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
1,168 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot
A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.
Listing #20162543 • $53,000

5BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage
1,904 sq. ft. • 1,903 sq. ft. lot
Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Pt. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.
Listing #20162346

2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
930 sq. ft. • 7,280 sq. ft. lot
This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!
Listing #20164279 • $38,500

3BR • 1.50BA
1,460 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot
Reasonably priced home has had new doors installed, new bathroom fixtures, and freshly painted. With it’s vinyl siding and fenced rear yard, its ready for your family!!
Listing #20162025 • $25,500

2BR • 1.25BA
1,119 sq. ft. • 0.17 acres
Brick rancher on Ave E close to Old Settlers Park, has full basement mostly finished, picket fence, newer windows, roof, etc.
Listing #20162502 • $88,900

4BR • 3BA • 2 car garage
1,349 sq. ft.
9,160 sq. ft. lot
From the inviting entrance to the serene back yard, you will enjoy it ALL and everything in between!!! This very well maintained 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has everything your family will need to call this Home. There is a beautiful screened porch and a deck off the back of the house, all overlooking a meticulously landscaped large yard. Call today on this amazing home situated on a quiet, safe cul de sac!!!
Listing #20163339 • $164,900

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5BR • 3BA
3,119 sq. ft.
14,500 sq. ft. lot

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!
Listing #20162159 • $164,000

2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,366 sq. ft. • 3,300 sq. ft. lot

Immaculate, well-kept ranch has family room with fireplace on the main floor, finished Rec Room, 2nd laundry room, 1/2 bath, and storage room with shelving all in the basement. All windows are vinyl replacement. Listing #20162507 • $109,900

2BR • 1.50BA • 2 car garage
868 sq. ft. • 7,000 sq. ft. lot
PRICED REDUCED! Rare opportunity to own a renovated home at a great price!! Large, shaded yard and a 2 car garage. Located in a nice neighborhood on a corner lot. Seller is motivated and offering a 1 year AHS Home Warranty!
Listing #20163035 • $52,000

2BR • 1BA
1,144 sq. ft.
3,625 sq. ft. lot

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!
Listing #20161431 • $42,500

3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage
928 sq. ft. • 1,087 sq. ft. lot

Very nice maintenancefree home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.
Listing #20164148 • $72,500

2BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
679 sq. ft. • 6,500 sq. ft. lot

Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.
Listing #20164161 • $62,500

3BR • 3.50BA • 3 car garage
3,723 sq. ft.

Splendor in the woods...with privacy...AND a view...AND an AMAZING home. Call today on this brick beauty perched atop a hill overlooking Ft. Madison with a view of the Mississippi River and almost 6 acres of ground. Offered are 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, a formal living & dining room, a large great room/kitchen/breakfast room combo and a study/den with beautiful cherry cabinetry & bookshelves lining the walls. All of this with STUNNING hardwood floors. This beautiful home offering top-of-the-line features throughout.
Listing #20160805 • $460,000

2BR • 1BA
1,144 sq. ft.
3,550 sq. ft. lot

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.
Listing #23006122 • $99,999

3BR • 3BA
2,754 sq. ft.
3,550 sq. ft. lot

Splendor in the woods...with privacy...AND a view...AND an AMAZING home. Call today on this brick beauty perched atop a hill overlooking Ft. Madison with a view of the Mississippi River and almost 6 acres of ground. Offered are 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, a formal living & dining room, a large great room/kitchen/breakfast room combo and a study/den with beautiful cherry cabinetry & bookshelves lining the walls. All of this with STUNNING hardwood floors. This beautiful home offering top-of-the-line features throughout.
Listing #20160805 • $460,000

3BR • 3.50BA • 3 car garage
3,723 sq. ft.

Splendor in the woods...with privacy...AND a view...AND an AMAZING home. Call today on this brick beauty perched atop a hill overlooking Ft. Madison with a view of the Mississippi River and almost 6 acres of ground. Offered are 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, a formal living & dining room, a large great room/kitchen/breakfast room combo and a study/den with beautiful cherry cabinetry & bookshelves lining the walls. All of this with STUNNING hardwood floors. This beautiful home offering top-of-the-line features throughout.
Listing #20160805 • $460,000

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3BR • 3BA • 3 car garage
1,635 sq. ft. • 4.3 acres
Amazing cedar log sided home in a quiet and private setting, a well-appointed guest house, and 26x32 metal building. The main home offers beautiful hardwood flooring with a spacious open floor plan. Enjoy summer evenings on the nice walk-out patio area. This is a dream home!!!
Listing #20161863 • $299,000

3BR • 2.50 BA
2 car garage • 2,400 sq. ft.
10,150 sq. ft. lot
Lovely tri-level home on a quiet cul-de-sac offering numerous upgrades. There are 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, a large living room, dining room and open kitchen with newer stainless steel appliances and a breakfast bar. Newer windows, HVAC, new floor coverings on main and lower level and freshly painted throughout. The large backyard is completely fenced and has a 24 x 16 patterned concrete patio. Don’t miss out on this wonderful family home.
Listing #20163404 • $167,500

Multi-family Duplex
2,672 sq. ft.
7,250 sq. ft. lot
Income property. Potential for $875/month income or more. Side-by-side duplex with 2 – 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. West side has a long term renter and east side is vacant.
Listing #20162154 • $49,500

3BR • 1.75 BA
3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft.
8,700 sq. ft. lot
Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24’ X 36’ insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.
Listing #20163776 • $129,500

2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.
UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deer mower and new snow blower!!
Listing #20162733 • $269,000

3BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage
1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres
Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.
Listing #20164234 • $119,900

4BR • 2.50BA • 1 car garage
2,056 sq. ft.
39,640 sq. ft. lot
Beautiful 2 story home located just off Highway 61 north of Fort Madison. Formal living and dining room, nice kitchen with breakfast room all open to a main floor family room, relaxing, private screened porch that opens onto the large deck that spans the back of the home. Basement boasts recently finished family room and tons of storage.
Listing #20164530 • $175,000

Land
50.82 acres
2,213,719 sq. ft.
Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.
Listing #20162779 • $559,020

Land
14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.
Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30’ X 60’ building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.
Listing #20162574 • $249,000

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