

Raton to celebrate Marge Atwater Day

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

Marge Atwater has a thing about kids. She likes them.

When she was a fourth-grade student in a two-room coal camp school at Cokedale, she awoke one night from a dream in which God wanted her to be a teacher. "I decided then that's exactly what I would do."

Atwater turned 78 last Saturday, with a third-grade student studying at her dining-room table in Folsom, NM. This Saturday, June 11, she and her family will make the trip to Raton for "Marge Atwater Day," officially declared by Raton Mayor Neil Segotta to honor Atwater's 46 years of teaching in the Raton Public Schools.

A reception will be held Saturday in the atrium of the Best Western Raton Hotel from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Organizers have also created a Marge Atwater Scholarship Fund, with donations in Atwater's honor being accepted at International Bank, First National Bank, and Wells Fargo Bank.

Atwater overcame an early obstacle. After her 1951 graduation from Trinidad High School, she had no money to attend college. She had written a senior essay on what she wanted to do after high school. The teacher who read it succeeded at getting her an \$80 scholarship to TSJC; that plus a job at 50 cents per hour enabled her to start.

Two years later she began her teaching career at another coal camp school outside Trinidad, but soon she met and married a Raton truck driver named Jim Atwater and began her long teaching career in the Raton schools. She continued her education at New Mexico Highlands University, earning masters degrees in elementary edu-

"I've never given a student an F, because no child is a failure."

Teacher, Marge Atwater

cation and special education.

Although she taught at every one of the Raton Public Schools – and at Highlands University – apparently she couldn't get her fill of having kids around her. She and Jim had two kids of their own – Karen Atwater Brown and Brad Atwater – and adopted four other children. Still not enough: over the years they have enjoyed raising 22 foster children.

In fact, when they moved to Folsom in 1981, the big draw for Marge was that they could buy the closed Folsom School along with the house next door, where they remain today. The school is still used for Marge's tutoring and a variety of community events.

Kids come to her for tutoring from all over the region – Clayton, Springer, Raton, Trinidad, and the Des Moines/Folsom area. Teachers, schools, and social-service agencies refer them. "I've got a reputation," she says. "And I don't charge, because that's what I think I should be doing."

She continues, "If it wasn't for my husband's health, I'd still be teaching in the Raton schools. If I had the money, I would open a private school here, and it would have a lot of students."

Get her talking about kids and her face lights up. "I love teaching kids because they have open minds. You have to open doors for children and show them the way. You have to touch a child's shoulder,



Tim Keller/The Chronicle-News

Marge Atwater has spent her life teaching children, first in southeastern Colorado, then for 46 years in the Raton Public Schools. Raton Mayor Neil Segotta has declared Saturday "Marge Atwater Day."

look him in the eye, and touch his heart. Every child deserves a good teacher."

She says No Child Left Behind was the worst thing to happen to schools, "because we had to bring all the kids to the same level." Even her beloved special education has gone too far: "Labeling has gotten out of hand: they have 14 categories of special education now!

"Every kid should be taught with individual attention from a teacher who knows her and cares. You have to know each child and meet each child's needs. You don't do that by having a class of 24 kids and handing out paper. So much now is giving assignments, checking assignments, and giving a grade.

"I've never given a student an F, because no child is a failure."

Her teaching always incorporates all three learn-

ing modalities – visual, auditory, and kinesthetic – because it's the one way to be sure every child learns.

"I incorporate a lot of activities that incorporate the body. The body is important in making the brain work."

She cites data, research, and contemporary books. She's concerned about the increasing practice of "putting kids in front of a computer and expecting them to learn. I haven't seen a computer yet that can put its arms around a child, or tell him not to worry about failure." She repeats her mantra that every child deserves the personal attention of a caring teacher.

In fact, the longer one listens to Marge Atwater, the easier it is to see why children still come from miles around for her teaching, and why the city of Raton will honor her Saturday with its very own Marge Atwater Day.

Drilling in Utah natural gas field gets fed's OK

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Federal officials announced Thursday that drilling could soon begin on a natural gas project in eastern Utah that could include nearly 3,700 wells, create thousands of jobs and increase concerns about dangerous levels of air pollution.

To alleviate the negative impacts on air quality in the Uinta Basin, Texas-based Anadarko Petroleum Corp. will have to significantly limit pollution emissions, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said during a conference call with reporters.

The proposed emission standards, surface impacts and other regulations for the project in the Greater Natural Buttes area are included in a draft environmental impact study being published Friday in the Federal Register. Public comment on the proposal will be accepted for 45 days.

If final approval is granted, Salazar said the project could yield 6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The impacted area covers about 250 square miles near the Colorado border, although it is estimated that only about 5 percent of that land will be disturbed.

Officials from the Bureau of Land Management and the Environmental Protection Agency worked with Anadarko to minimize the impacts of the project, which was first proposed in 2006, Salazar said. While the air quality during the winter in the Uinta Basin "is some of the worst in the country," he said moving the project forward is important.

"We have to find sensible ways of allowing natural gas development to move forward, while at the same time protecting air quality,"

Salazar said.

Researchers from Utah State University and the Idaho National Laboratory are studying the pollution problem in the Uinta Basin, which they said could be caused as much by weather as emissions from energy companies or vehicles. Foul air also tends to get trapped in the bowl-like basin.

Environmental groups that have opposed the project said the air quality concerns are paramount.

"It behooves everyone to take the strictest measures possible to mitigate the pollution," said Tim Wagner, a representative with the Utah chapter of the Sierra Club.

Monitoring of the region's air pollution has only recently started on a limited scale, and the causes for the bad air are not easily identifiable, said Uintah County Commissioner Mark Raymond. But he applauded Anadarko for taking steps to limit additional pollution, such as electric motors for the pumps and a water pipeline that will eliminate the need for diesel-powered water trucks.

The economic benefits for the area are important because of Anadarko's plan to develop the project and add up to 4,000 jobs over the course of about a decade, Raymond said. While the county's unemployment rate is only about 6 percent, he said that is because many people have left families behind while they go to work in other states.

"We hope this will provide the opportunity for them to come back and work here for many years," Raymond said.

Anadarko spokesman Brian Cain said the project is important for the company, as well as the region's economy and the national energy portfolio.

Where to worship

A list of denominations and churches in the area



TRINIDAD

■ Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
1605 Aiello St. 846-0244. Sabbath school Saturday 9:30 to 11 a.m., Sabbath service 11 a.m. Pastor Robert Bird, 1-505-387-2131. Elder Herb Sabol, 719-846-0699.

■ Apostolic

APOSTOLIC Lighthouse
1-25, Exit 11, South of Wal-Mart. Sunday school noon-1 p.m., Worship Services 1-2:30 p.m., Thursday Worship 6 p.m. 719-846-2172. Pastor Joe Urrutia. "Come Worship With Us."

SOUTHERN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS

816 Nevada Ave. Fellowship service in English and Spanish on Sunday at 10 a.m. Everyone welcome. Pastor David Boyer. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

■ Assembly of God

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
924 North Nevada Ave. Sunday service-Sunday school 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesday 7 p.m. Kim Pittman, Pastor.

TEMPLO BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

218 Santa Fe Trail & Madison Ave. Sunday service 10 a.m., Worship 11:30 a.m., Evangelistic service 6 p.m., Mid-week worship service 6 p.m. Nick Trujillo, Pastor.

■ Baptist

BIBLE BAPTIST (Independent)
1102 Stonewall. Sunday School 10 a.m., Morning Worship 11 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Thursday Worship 7 p.m. 719-845-0827

FISHER'S PEAK COMMUNITY CHURCH

10377 Santa Fe Trail. Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 a.m., Bible study: 9 a.m., Sunday Senior High Youth, 5 p.m., Wednesday Bible study, all ages, 6 p.m., Nursery (birth - 3 yrs. old) is provided with service. Pastor David Cook, 719-846-6018 Everyone is welcome!

■ Bible

TRINIDAD BIBLE CHURCH
1513 Hayes Street. Family Worship, 10 a.m. Parenting and personal Bible studies during the week. Pastor Rick Thomas 719-846-2885.

■ Catholic

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
235 North Convent St. Masses: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m., Sat. 5 p.m., Sun. 7, 9 & 11 a.m. Family Eucharist 9 a.m. Mass, Confessions 3-4:30 p.m. Sat.

■ Christian

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
200 S. Walnut St. Youth Group Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Sunday Worship Service 10:45 a.m., nursery provided (infants to 5 yrs) Broadcast on KCRT, 1240 AM 11 a.m. - noon. Sunday Bible classes for all ages at 9:30am. Websites: fctrinidad.com & jet4christ.com. Pastor Cary Nelson 719-846-3843.

POTTER'S HOUSE CHRISTIAN CENTER

1601 Nevada Ave. Sunday morning 10:45 a.m., Sunday night 6 p.m., Wednesday night 7 p.m. Pastor Joseph Gutierrez, 719-859-1093

CHURCH OF GOD

220 S. Animas St. Sunday: Remembrance (Worship) 10 a.m.; Ministry of Gods Word 11:15 a.m.; Thurs. Prayer / Bible Study- In Home 7:30 p.m. Call 719-846-3781 or 719-846-4883 or For info: www.ChurchesofGod.info

■ Church of Christ

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1000 Nevada Ave. Sunday: Bible class, 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wednesday night Bible study, 7 p.m. Bible courses available. 719-846-2919.

■ Full Gospel

TRINIDAD FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH
Pastor Kenny Bryan
Home Bible study - Mondays 7 p.m. Call 719-361-0056 for more information.

■ Inter-denominational

THE LORD'S CHAPEL
Aaron Norton, Minister
719-846-8506 or 719-868-3044. "A Christian Church with a Caring Heart."

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■ Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's WITNESSES KINGDOM HALL
1713 Goodale Street. Tuesday Bible study, 7:30 p.m. Sunday public talk, 10 a.m. Sunday Watchtower Bible study, 10:50 a.m. 719-846-3119.

■ Lutheran

ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Corner of Prospect & Pine. 10 a.m. Worship (Holy Communion - 1st & 3rd Sundays). Guest Pastor: Rev. Janet Rawlings 719-846-7785

■ Methodist

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
216 Broom Street. Sunday schedule: 9:45 - 10:45: Sunday school for youth and adult study of Acts
10:00 - 10:45: Choir rehearsal
11:00 - 12:00: Worship and elementary Sunday School concurrently
Pastor Leslie Barnett. 719-846-6824

■ Nazarene

1st CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
733 Stonewall Ave. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday night, for all ages, 6:30 p.m. "We're a Family Bible Church"
Pastor Rick Davis, 719-845-0383

■ Non-denominational

FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
2608 Santa Fe Trail. Youth Service: Thursday, 6 p.m. 846-9673. Mid-week service: Tuesday 6 p.m., Sunday Service: 10 a.m. Also nursery & children's classes provided. Rev. Bill Frashuer, 719-846-9673.

HEART OF TRINIDAD FELLOWSHIP

131 W. Main St. Sunday celebration at 10 a.m. Pastor Dick Valdez, 719-846-9100

HONKY TONK CHURCH

3809E. Highway 160 (Wagon Wheel Event Center) 2 p.m. Sunday - 8:30 a.m. broadcast on KCRT. Rev. Gabriel Farago 615-944-2230

■ Trans-denominational

HIDDEN TREASURE MINISTRIES
208 Pine St. Monday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For pastoral care or personal ministry. John and Sherron Hudson, 719-742-5766.

■ Inter-denominational

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES
2202 Freedom Rd (next to BigR) Sunday Worship 10:15 am
2nd Sunday of month: Praise Breakfast 9 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Pastor Vondell Kooztz
719-845-0078 or 719-846-3853

■ Pentecostal

FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
10375 Santa Fe Trail. Sunday worship 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Thursday 7:30 p.m. Pastor Sean Gonzales 719-846-2987.

■ Presbyterian

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
801 San Pedro, 846-6513
www.trinidadupc.org
Sunday Worship Service - 9:30 a.m. No Sunday School during the summer. All are welcome!

AGUILAR

■ FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF AGUILAR (Outreach Church of First Christian Church of Trinidad)
309 S. Romero. Sunday Bible School for all ages at 9 a.m. Worship Service at 10 a.m. J.E.T. Youth Group Services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 6 p.m. for ages 12 to 20. Pastor Scott Martin, 719-846-3843. Websites: fcc-trinidad.com and jet4christ.com

ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

125 South Fir. Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m. Priest, Phil Coury, 719-941-4124.

INTERNATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

609 Fir St. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Friday Bible Study 7 p.m.

BRANSON

BRANSON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Worship 10:30 a.m., Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (all ages)
Wednesday Youth Group 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Brad Doherty, 719-946-5646

COKEDALE

CHRIST IN THE CANYONS FELLOWSHIP

Cokedale Schoolhouse. Worship, teaching 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday. Mid-week gatherings, men's and women's small groups. Inter-denominational. Pastor Ed Richardson, 719-846-9594.

SEGUNDO

ST. IGNATIUS

5 p.m. Saturday Mass on 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, 719-846-3369

THE LORD'S CHAPEL

Just West of Segundo. Sunday school 10-10:45 a.m., Church at 11 a.m.

STONEWALL

STONEWALL COMMUNITY CHURCH

10 miles west of Weston on Hwy. 12. Sunday services at 10 a.m. Pastor Ross Gagliardi

VIGIL

SAN ISIDRO CHURCH

5 p.m. Saturday Mass on 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month.

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