

IN BRIEF

Alternative fuel retailer starts business in Eugene

Look for a new soybean- and corn-powered fill-up station in the Eugene-Springfield area in fall.

SeSequential Biofuels, a fuel marketer and distributor in Eugene and Portland, plans to open an alternative-fuel service station in September or October in Eugene.

Biofuels — typically made from grain or bean oils — can be found alongside some gasoline pumps around the nation, but the proposed SeSequential station is a pioneering effort because all the fuels it would offer would be earth-friendly to some degree, managing partner Ian Hill said.

SeSequential's project represents a three-way partnership with Lane County and the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Hill said SeSequential expects to spend about \$1 million to start up the station.

The station would hire up to eight employees, boost property tax revenue and be an option for motorists who want alternatives to gasoline, said Jeff Turk, a Lane County property management officer.

The station would offer two kinds of fuel. One, for diesel engines, would be a blend of diesel and biodiesel, he said. The biodiesel would be made from soybeans and vegetable oil waste from restaurants and the food industry. The other type of fuel, for gasoline engines, would be blends of gasoline and ethanol, which is distilled from grains such as corn, Hill said.

Consumers would be able to choose from varying blends with varying percentages of biodiesel or ethanol. They also could buy pure biodiesel, which runs 50 cents to \$1 more per gallon than petroleum diesel, Hill said.

Biofuels burn more cleanly than petroleum, can help the United States shift from the use of foreign oil, and can increase the use of sustainable domestic crops, Hill said.

"We see the flowering of the sustainable business movement with organic foods at grocery stores, we see the blooming of recycled products from paper and plastic," Hill said. "But we see a real lack of that happening at the retail fuel level. We'd like to let the market make the decision on whether it's a viable business or not."

— The Associated Press



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Don't forget to attend the sale April 9th & 10th at 445 E 32nd.

Red Lake teacher gave hope to others

Neva Rogers, one of ten killed in the school shooting last Monday, was remembered in a wake on Sunday

BY AMY FORLITI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEMIDJI, Minn. — English teacher Neva Rogers had finally found a place where she felt needed, where she could give opportunities to poverty-stricken children who struggled with teen pregnancy, drugs and alcohol.

That place was Red Lake High School, where she died in a school shooting last week. While students crouched under their desks in a corner, Rogers stood out in the open and began to pray.

"God be with us. God help us," 15-year-old Ashley Lajeunesse heard Rogers say after she told students to hide as gunman Jeff Weise fired through a window and marched into the room.

"He walked up to that teacher with the shotgun, and he pulled the trigger, but it didn't fire," said

Chongai'la Morris, 14. "Then he pulled out his pistol, and he shot her three times in the side and once in the face."

Rogers, 62, was the only teacher killed by Weise, a depressed teenager who last week shot his grandfather and his grandfather's girlfriend, then went to the high school and shot Rogers, a security guard and five students before turning the gun on himself.

Friends and family of the slain teacher gathered Sunday for a wake. A funeral was scheduled for Monday.

Rogers' adult children were not surprised by their mother's actions.

"There wasn't anything she wouldn't do for her students," said her son, Vern Kembitskey, 34, recalling that she gave scarves and gloves to needy children and helped help raise money for kids who wanted to take field trips to

Washington, D.C.

"I think she was good at what she did," Kembitskey said. "I think she actually wanted those kids to learn."

Rogers felt she was needed at Red Lake, a place where truancy is common and teens face poverty, pregnancy and violence.

She had a soft spot for teens who had lost their parents or became parents at a young age, said her daughters, Cindy Anderson and Kim Kvam. But she also expected a lot from her students and would stay late to help them.

"One of the things she admired most were people who came from absolutely nothing and made something of themselves," Kembitskey said.

In a state survey conducted last year of 56 Red Lake ninth-graders, nearly half the girls said they had attempted to kill themselves. Twenty percent of boys said the same — numbers about triple the rate statewide.

"She said you have to just give them hope and keep encouraging

and try to get them to keep coming (to school)," said her half-sister, Doris Berndt. Rogers, she said, believed that "by getting an education they are going to have a better life."

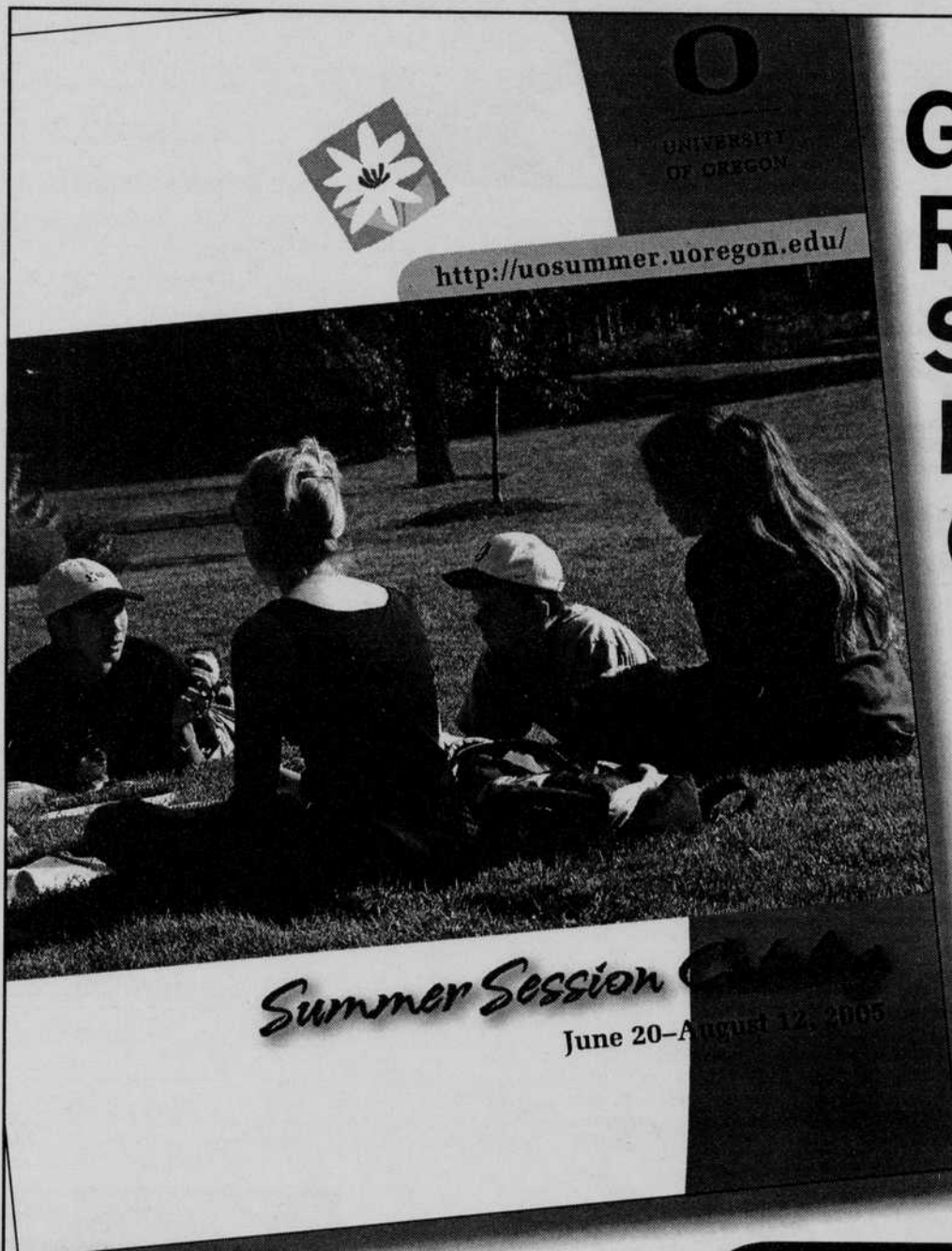
Rogers began teaching at Red Lake after attending Bemidji State University. She left teaching in the early 1980s to work in the insurance industry but returned to Red Lake about six years ago.

The blond woman stood out among the American Indians, but she felt at home on the reservation. Her children said she considered her students to be like family.

"I think one of the things that she liked the best about it was there's such a sense of community," said Anderson. "My mom was the type of person that likes to know (about) other people's lives."

Berndt said that Rogers never worried about school safety.

"She just had a desire to do something, go somewhere where she could really make a big difference in a child's life," Berndt said.



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