## Page 6, Thursday, July 8, 1999

News for Southern Colorado County, Texas - The Eagle Lake Headlight

## Discussions about violence can help parents get to know kids better

wary of classmates with suspicious appreciated at home and school. behavior."

to violence," said Dr. Ernest Fruge, a community medicine and pediatrics. cer Center in Houston.

chance to have thoughtful discussions anger, and violence." with their kids and to get to know them

Kids can learn more from the re- dangerous behavior, such as carrying ridiculed for being different. Fruge cent shooting in schools than just "be guns, are those who feel loved and recommends that parents ask their social pressure that led them to join

"Parents should talk to their chil- children's thoughts, feelings, and how people treat one another at Fruge said. "Your child might go on to dren about troublesome classmates, concerns show that their kids are school. Ask whether any students ar tell you, 'Gee, if I don't go along with but also about their fears and the important to them," said Fruge, Bay- often made fun of, and how other the crowd, they might have started complex social situations that can lead lor assistant professor of family and students and teachers respond. psychologist at Baylor College of "These discussions can help parents pated in the teasing, the natural reac- and that's a major accomplishment for Medicine and Texas Children's Can- understand the way their children see tion of many parents might be to any parent." the world and respond to social situ- immediately say, 'You shouldn't do Summer vacation offers parents a ations that might lead to frustration, that," Fruge said. "But this immediate a springboard for kids to think through

better. Research has shown that the dents in Colorado who went on a world-you only want to correct spond, with parental guidance. Fruge kids who are least likely to engage in shooting spree apparently had been them."

reaction might send a message that social situations, reflect on their val-For example, the high school stu- you are not really interested in their ues, and figure out other ways to re-

Asking the child to discuss the children not just whether any students into the verbal harassment can lead to "Parents who listen to their have been making threats, but also a more meaningful conversation, making fun of me, too." You now have "If children admit they partici- a better understanding of their world, sations, parents can help their kids

> Such deep discussions can serve as suggest questions such as:

ers? Is it fair?

\*How would you feel if you were the one being ridiculed?

\*How do you think the ridiculed person's life might change if no one made fun of him or her?

"Through ongoing frank converdevelop moral reasoning in line with others is like picking a fight with safety risks, Fruge said.

\*Why do people make fun of oth- someone smaller," Fruge said. "To encourage independent thinking, a parent might ask, 'How far would you go to be a part of a group? Would you beat someone up to join?"

With thought-provoking questions, parents can guide their kids to think and act more maturely. In the process, parents are likely to get to know their children better and feel the family's values. For example, they more secure about their kids' ability to can lead kids to realize that ridiculing make good decisions and reduce their

## Reliant Energy merges HL&P, Entex

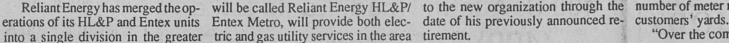
Houston metropolitan area only.

Apart from providing improve- Houston area service territories. ments in day-to-day customer service customers in its other operating areas. Reliant Energy Entex. Those include South Texas, East Mississippi Divisions.

Reliant Energy has merged the op- will be called Reliant Energy HL&P/ to the new organization through the number of meter readers entering our into a single division in the greater tric and gas utility services in the area tirement. where the two units have overlapping

in the Houston area, the move will territory outside the greater Houston that position, he was Vice President service and credit. Once our customer have no appreciable affect on Reliant area will function as a separate unit, and Division Manager of the South service function is consolidated late Energy Entex natural gas service to which will continue to be known as Texas/Texas Coast Division, based in next year, we'll be a one-call opera-

Texas, Beaumont, Louisiana and lio has been named president of Reliant Energy Entex, replacing Robert The new Houston division, which Jones, who will assist in the transition



Texas A&M University.

"We're striving to continuously enhance the service we provide in mented, customers can continue to order to ensure our customers' satis- reach customer service representafaction," said Liollio.

As part of the formation of the new Metro Division, the operations of books. Reliant Energy Entex's Coast divisional operating area will now be functionally a part of the new division for internal reporting purposes.

At the same time, Reliant Energy announced that Thomas R. Standish has been named President of the combined Metro Division. A 16-year and Chief Financial Officer. employee of the company, Standish formerly served as Senior Vice President of Distribution Customer Service Reliant Energy Arkla, which provides for HL&P. A native of Houston, he local natural gas delivery services in holds a degree in electrical engineer- Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma, ing from the University of Texas.

of service we provide our customers," said David M. McClanahan, President of the Reliant Energy Delivery Group, based in Houston, is a diversified inwhich oversees the operations of the ternational energy company with first steps will be to consolidate meter reading, immediately reducing the

"Over the coming year, more op-

Liollio was formerly Vice Presi- erational functions will be consolident and Division Manager of the dated for increased customer conven-Those parts of the Entex service Houston Division of Entex. Prior to ience, including billing, customer New Braunfels. He has been with the tion. Whether you need to discuss As part of the changes, Dean Liol- company for 16 years, and holds a your natural gas or electric needs, or degree in industrial engineering from move or relocate service, one will do it all," McClanahan said.

Until those changes are impletives for electricity and natural gas at the numbers listed in their phone

Other Reliant Energy Delivery Group changes announced include the naming of Wayne D. Stinnett Jr., as Senior Vice President of Support Services; Johnny L. Blua, Senior Vice President of Operations Services; and James S. Brian, Senior Vice President

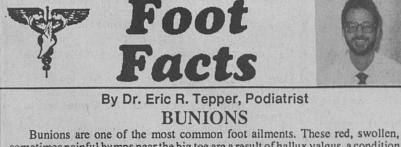
The Reliant Energy Delivery Group also oversees the operation of and Reliant Energy Minnegasco, "The goal is to improve the quality which provides local gas delivery in the Minneapolis, Minnesota, area. Reliant Energy (NYSE:REI),



Winners in the first grade relay were, from left, Alex Cardenas, Mercedes Ornelas, Dynasty Johnson and Javier Leal. Along with students is their teacher, Mrs. Janish.



Third grade relay winners were, from left, Rogelio Montiel, Jeffrey Keith, Jocelyn Stovall and Terrika Jackson. With them substituting for Mrs. **ELPS** Photos Corman is substitute teacher Becky Lobpries.



sometimes painful bumps near the big toe are a result of hallux valgus, a condition where the big toe rotates toward the second toe. Genetics and shoes can play a role in the development of bunions. The inherited shape and mechanics of some feet make them prone to bunions. Wearing tight or ill-fitting shoes is a major cause of bunions. If a bunion causes persistent pain, a podiatrist may prescribe orthotics (special shoe inerts). Another option is surgical correction. There are more than 100 different surgical treatments of bunions, many of which require the foot and leg to be in a cast and immobilized, perhaps for weeks.

It is important that bunions be recognized early and evaluated by a podiatrist. He or she can then offer several suggestions on controlling the cause of the bone deformity so that symptoms do not arise or become more severe. Recommendations may include exercise, a change in footwear, orthotics, medication, and surgery. Let us do what we do best - diagnose and treat your particular foot problems with compassion, knowledge, and up-to-date equipment and techniques. Call 234-5571, at Rice Medical Center. I am there every Tuesday.

P.S. To relieve pain associated with bunions, wear shoes with wide toe boxes and good insoles, try an anti-inflammatory like aspirin, place cold compresses on the area, or soak the foot.

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Mrs. Bradley couldn't seem to get enough parents involved in the school even though she really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really

When adults run out of ideas, they can feel as frustrated as kids. Connect For Kids has thousands of resources for helping children in your community. For more information, call 1-888-544-KIDS.

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