

# UT professor offers parents information about bullying

Submitted Report

KNOXVILLE — A Florida father storms a school bus after hearing that his handicapped daughter was being bullied by classmates.

A 15-year-old Massachusetts girl hangs herself after months of hallway and online tormenting from classmates.

A 13-year-old Texas boy hangs himself in his family's barn after being stuck in a trash can because he was small.

These stories, unfortunately, are just the tip of the iceberg. U.S. Bureau of Justice statistics say one in three children in grades 6-10 are either bullies or the victims of bullying.

Professor David Dupper of the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, spent nearly 15 years working as a social worker in middle and high schools in Florida before his work in higher education. He's written two books, numerous book chapters and many papers on topics including school violence, bullying, school discipline and at-risk students.

Dupper, also the father of three girls — a recent college graduate, a college sophomore and a high school junior — said parents and teachers must be proactive to prevent bullying and to intervene when their children are the victims of bullying. Here are five things parents and teachers need to know about bullying:

Understand the difference between teasing and bullying.

"Teasing takes place between peers who are comparable in status," Dupper said. "In bullying, someone has power over another individual because they're physically bigger or belong to a bigger group." Bullying is often chronic. It occurs in places with little adult supervision, such as buses or bathrooms. Bullying tends to peak in the late-elementary and middle school years. "That's when parents really have to be tuned in and encourage their children to tell them if anything is going on," Dupper said. "Probe. Explore. Don't be afraid to talk to your kids. They probably won't

speak up first; they think they can handle it themselves, or they're afraid of making things worse if they tell an adult."

Understand the difference between genders when it comes to bullying.

"Girls are usually emotionally bullied; boys get it both ways, physically and emotionally," Dupper said.

Girl bullies tend to gossip, make fun of their victims or exclude them from the group. Boy bullies verbally abuse, but often resort to physical assaults, too. While anyone can fall prey to a bully, kids most at risk are those who are loners or different in the way they dress, look or act.

Teach kids the difference between standing up for themselves and dealing with a bully. "Never expect a victim of bullying to deal with the bully themselves," Dupper said. Parents and school officials must intervene.

"The only way a child is going to feel safe saying something to an adult is to know that the adult will take the bullying situation seriously and protect them."

Be informed about — and be an advocate for — school policies and laws concerning bullying.

"Bullying is peer child abuse," Dupper said. Parents should find out if their school district has a specific policy against bullying and, if it doesn't, try to get one enacted.

Parents also can encourage their children's schools to mount anti-bullying campaigns with posters and discussions that provide examples of bullying behavior. Heightened awareness means "it's much less likely a bully is going to get away with it," he said.

Don't be a bully.

"Kids model the behavior that they observe in their immediate environments and in the society at large. Kids learn by watching the behavior of adults. They can learn to intimidate and overpower others or they can learn to deal with others in respectful ways. The bottom line is — adults need to model the behavior that they want kids to exhibit," Dupper said.

## Family traditions



Submitted

Harvey Finwick, amateur radio license instructor for Sevier County Emergency Radio Service, congratulates 9-year-old Scan Gardner, his brother Trevor, age 11 and their mother Heather. All three recently passed the Amateur Radio Technician level license issued by the FCC. They join father Mike Gardner as licensed radio operators.

## FIN

◀ From Page B1

"What we really want to do is provide some significant mentoring, one-on-one mentoring ... hoping to offer some financial budgeting classes, things like that. Everybody, no matter how much money they make, needs to know the best way to manage to pay the bills."

The event raised \$6,000 last year and brought in multiple truckloads of food. Taylor said they've set a goal of \$5,000 this year.

"What we really need to do is hire a staff person to kind of oversee" the mentoring program, Taylor said. "We want to do mentor training, bring somebody in who could train folks to be

mentors for people in the community who are in crisis."

"We'll be blessed no matter what it is," Donnelly said of the profits of the fundraiser.

Taylor agreed.

"Because it goes to such a good cause," Taylor said. "I was talking to somebody the other day in the community that we have a friendship with, and he said he thinks that this is going to be a much harder winter in terms of employment, housing needs and food needs. That's going to make

the work we do more critical."

The event will be held in a vacant store front in Buie's Landing. The Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce will hold its Business After Hours from 5-7 p.m. that Thursday as part of the first day's events. Thursday's events start at 2 p.m., while Friday and Saturday events start at 10 a.m.

For more information at the event, contact Hancock at 436-3504. For more information on FIN, visit [www.wearefin.org](http://www.wearefin.org).

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# Scenic byways in Tennessee among the best in the region

Submitted Report

NASHVILLE — As people across the United States make plans for autumn road trips, the Tennessee Department of Transportation is reminding motorists that Tennessee's award-winning Scenic Byways offer some of the best views in the South.

Tennessee has five nationally designated scenic byways: Cherohala Skyway, East Tennessee Crossing, Natchez Trace Parkway, Woodlands Trace and Great River Road.

"Tennessee's scenic byways travel through some of the state's most unique and beautiful locations," said TDOT spokesman Joe Carpenter. "We are pleased to partner with local communities and byways groups to give travelers the opportunity to explore Tennessee's natural beauty through our five National Scenic Byways."

According to a new national survey from The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. on America's Byways, 70 percent of Americans are planning on taking at least one road trip this autumn.

The Cherohala Skyway and East Tennessee Crossing offer views of the Appalachian Mountains. In Middle Tennessee, visitors can travel the Natchez Trace Parkway and take in the fall foliage and learn the history of this vital trail through the South or visit the Woodlands Trace which runs along a ridge of land known as the Land Between the Lakes and take in the views of Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake.

In west Tennessee, the Great River Road follows the Mississippi River as it travels along Tennessee's western border. The Great River Road in Tennessee was recently awarded

the Mississippi River Parkway Commission Pilot's Award. The award is presented annually to one of the 10 Mississippi River states based on their accomplishments and work along the Mississippi River Corridor.

John Sheahan, the Tennessee chairman to the MRPC Board of Directors and MRCT chairman emeritus, said, "After working just under the radar for so many years, we are thrilled to

receive this great honor and Pilot Award from such a highly regarded organization like the MRPC. It's a very rewarding national achievement and we are sincerely grateful for their recognition of Tennessee and our work on the Mississippi River."

To learn more about America's Byways go to [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org) and for more information on the Tennessee Byways program, call (615) 741-6896.

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