

Anti-bullying program to be presented Friday

Students in the El Dorado School District will get a worthwhile lesson on bullying when the Don't Be a Bully! Speak Up! Speak Out! program is presented Friday at the El Dorado Municipal Auditorium.

The motivational program is free to all elementary and middle school students in the ESD.

The schools will provide transportation for two shows, one at 9:15 a.m. and the other at 10:30 a.m.

In recent years, bullying has become the focus of a national discussion, with students, parents, educators, law enforcement offi-

cers and others engaged in efforts to combat it.

For some, bullying has had serious consequences, and it is for that reason that El Dorado native Terry Davis said he decided to bring the program to his hometown.

According to information Davis submitted to the News-Times, "Through the Don't Be a Bully! Speak Up! Speak Out! production, we hope to save the lives of students and to promote positive learning experiences for all involved."

Davis' wife, Kim Cantey Davis, is the founder of the Georgia-based Sisters Unit-

ed Circle, through which the DBAB program is operated.

The theatrical production is delivered by a group of young cast members whose fictional characters are placed in scenarios that real-life students could face.

Stocked with themes of self-respect and respect for others, DBAB blends an energetic mix of drama, comedy, music and dance to educate audience members about the emotional psychological impact bullying could have on the victims and perpetrators.

Moreover, audience members are taught not to be

afraid to "Speak Up and Speak Out" about bullying and to take action by seeking support from friends, parents, teachers, principals, school resource officers, etc.

Adults are also encouraged to attend the production to raise their own awareness about bullying and their responses to it.

For more information about the program at auditorium, call Jack Wilson at the South Arkansas Arts Center at 862-5474, Veronica Creer at 315-1459, Terry Davis at 404-542-1565 or Kim Cantey Davis at 678-938-9527 or visit www.dontbeabully.org.