

The Harlan County High School Drama Department recently presented *Twains Tales*, three short stories by the master American storyteller Mark Twain. These included "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," "Science vs. Luck," as well as, the fence-painting chapter from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

The play takes place on the front porch of a general store in what could be Hannibal, Missouri in the late 1800s. The five locals — the storekeeper and his wife, a printer, a reporter and a riverboat pilot — spend the morning entertaining each other by seeing who can spin the tallest tale.

In his own lifetime, Samuel Clemens held all four of these occupations, and his ability as a storyteller may very well have been born while listening to such individuals spinning their yarns at the general store. As the narratives unfold, the storytellers, and other actors play out the stories from the script.

The HCHS drama students performed for groups from all of the county district's elementary schools and the high school, with the performance connecting to the curriculum of the elementary schools and high school.

The storytelling torchbearers, Micheala Simpson and one of the top ten national representatives Noah Hughes, performed the stories they will tell during this year's Kentucky State Fair in Louisville.

Also, Jordan Smith performed his poems which placed him in the top five in the State in Poetry Out Loud State finals.

The drama teacher is Pam Hoskins. Mrs. Hoskins noted that the drama program continues to grow at HCHS, with various classes offered each trimester exposing students to multiple opportunities in theater and the arts.



HCHS Drama Students Mike Amburgey, Micheala Simpson, Austin Hall, Jordan Smith and Tyler Turner perform in *Twain Tales* in the HCHS theater recently for area elementary school students.

From the left, Amburgey played the character of Floyd Warren, a printer, while Simpson portrayed Virginia Holloway, the wife of the store owner, Otis Holloway, portrayed by Austin Hall. Jordan Smith performed the role of Andrew Riley, a reporter, while Tyler Napier filled the character of Thom Brady, the river boat pilot.