

THE BIG READ IN WAYNE COUNTY

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
by Mark Twain



Event Highlights

- **Exhibit at the Wayne Center for the Arts**

The Big Read in Wayne County will kick-off on Friday, March 12 with an opening reception at the Wayne Center for the Arts celebrating an exhibition entitled, *Mark Twain in Wooster*. The exhibition will feature information on Mark Twain's life and will include photos, memorabilia, artifacts and early editions of Twain books. A special section will highlight Twain's visit to Wooster in January of 1872.

- **Keynote Speaker Mark Dawidziak at Main Branch of the Wayne County Public Library**

Twain scholar Mark Dawidziak presents a program entitled, "Mark Twain: The Reports of His Death Are Greatly Exaggerated," at the Main Branch of the Wayne County Public Library, Tuesday, March 16 at 7 pm . Mark Twain climbed onto the back of Halley's Comet and departed this globe 100 years ago. But as we approach the centennial of his death on April 21, it's clear that Mark Twain is more alive than ever as an American writer, an American icon, an American presence. So Mark Twain scholar Mark Dawidziak will discuss why the reports of Mark Twain's death were indeed an exaggeration. Dawidziak writes for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, is the author of *Mark My Words: Mark Twain on Writing* and has presented Twain programs around the country.

- ***Twain by Three* presented at Wayne College in conjunction with the Orrville Public Library**

The Largely Literary Theatre Company's production of *Twain by Three*, will be performed in the J. M. Smucker Room of the new Student Life building at Wayne College on Thursday evening, April 1 at 7 pm. The play opens with Twain working at his desk. He talks to the audience about his frustrations with critics, editors and publishers, and this talk leads to a succession of stories. Three actors play all of the characters in these sketches.

- **Public programs at libraries around the County**

Other public programs planned for The Big Read include two library presentations each of *Tom Sawyer* movies; a speaker on spelunking; and a variety of family-friendly activity days featuring crafts, 19th century children's games, and other programs.

- ***Twain's Tales* Storytime Family Theatre production at the Wayne Center for the Arts**

Twain's Tales is a collection of five short stories by Mark Twain. The stories are "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," "Science v. Luck," "The Joke That Made Ed's Fortune," "The Belated Russian Passport" and "Is He Living or Is He Dead?" – as well as the fence-painting chapter from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. A hands-on activity and refreshments will precede each performance on March 26 and March 27.

• **Book discussions around the County**

At least twelve book discussions will be held during The Big Read. Locations will include the seven branches of the Wayne County Public Library, the Orrville Public Library, The Wooster Book Company, College of Wooster, and Muddy Waters Café.



About The Big Read

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support for The Big Read is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Transportation for The Big Read is provided by Ford.

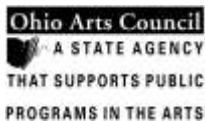
Wayne County is one of 268 communities nationwide participating in The Big Read from September 2009-June 2010. To date, the NEA has funded more than 800 Big Read programs in the nation's towns and cities. From March 8th, our community will celebrate *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain with a full calendar of events including speakers, theatre performances, book discussions, music, and family activity days around Wayne County.

For more information on this event, please contact the Wayne Center for the Arts at 330-264-2787. You also can view a full calendar of events for The Big Read in Wayne County at www.wayneartscenter.org/bigread.html.

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**THE
BIG
READ**



The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this program or organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.