

## Musical promises to put audience on edge

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Wednesday, 06 October 2010 17:49 - Last Updated Wednesday, 06 October 2010 17:52

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**'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' also full of humor, adventure.**

A murder in a graveyard. A home recipe involving a dead cat to cure warts. A funeral for people who are still alive.

Two schoolchildren lost in a cave.

There's a better show scheduled in the Gothenburg High School performing arts center this weekend than anything on television, according to Ernie Blecha.

That's when GHS junior and senior high students present "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" which is based on the novel by Mark Twain.

The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 10.

Charlie Grabbingbear, who plays the sheriff, said the production puts the viewers inside the story.

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“It’s like seeing it in first person, it’s so realistic,” Grabbingbear said. “Everyday problems come up and are put into the musical.”

Ashlee Bruntz, who portrays school girl Amy Lawrence, described the musical as “funny, scary with tear-jerking moments.”

As far as evoking tears, Bruntz pointed to the scene in which parents, school children and townspeople come together to pray to find Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher, who are lost in McDougal’s Cave.

Bailey Gibbens, who plays the mother of George Bellamy (Drake Langley), talked about seat-gripping moments during a courthouse scene and in the graveyard.

Blecha said Injun Joe (Chris Block) plays a knife-wielding, dark character in the production who is likely to put the audience on edge whenever he appears on stage.

“You feel tension and you feel scared,” Gibbens said.

School girl Susie Rogers (Madison Costello) said people should come to see the musical because “we’ve worked really hard.”

Rehearsals began in August and will continue until opening night.

Becca Else, who is also a school girl, said she likes the songs sprinkled throughout the story.

Blecha said the musical selections were newly composed for the adventure production about a young boy and his friends who grow up along the Mississippi River in 1876.

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“The music is absolutely wonderful and the kids are thrilled with the whole show,” he said. “I don’t think

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