

Story fest inaugural draws 200

■ Students relate favorite tales for parents, residents

By **STEPHANIE OBLEY**

The Spectrum

They weren't allowed to memorize it or read it from a book.

Instead, they had to spin their favorite tale, in their own words, to an audience of nearly 200.

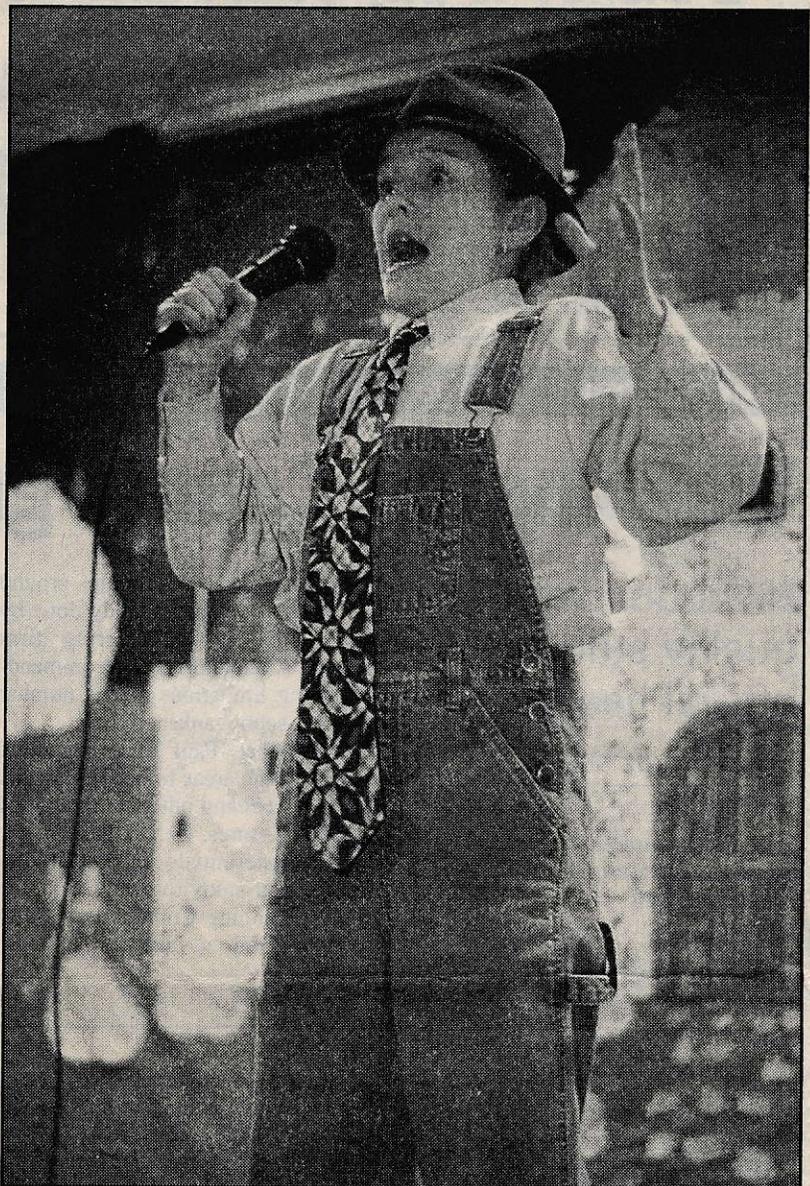
Tuesday afternoon, nearly 30 elementary school students participated in a story-telling festival at Washington County Library. The contest — in its first year — was part of Heritage Week.

The finalists were chosen from around the county from about 2,000 participants. The stories they told ranged from humorous to folksy to scary.

They included common tales such as "Three Little Pigs," "Where the Wild Things Are" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," and others such as "It's Not Easy Being a Bunny," "What Men Don't Know About Women" and "Substitute Teacher From Mars."

After all the students — and St. George Mayor Dan McArthur — had told their favorite story, judges chose winners. They include:

■ Grades kindergarten through second — First place, Lauren Wright, Bloomington Hills; sec-



Spectrum photo / Nick Adams

Shyla Osborne, from West Elementary, retells the story of the Three Little Pigs from the Big Bad Wolf's point of view Tuesday at the First Annual Storytelling Festival at the Washington County Library.

ond place, Jackson Eardley, Panorama; and third place, Kelsey Snow, Bloomington.

■ Grades third through fifth — First place, Cami Glauser, Sunset; second place tie, Chani Davis, Bloomington Hills, and Shyla Osborne, West; and third place, Lex Howard, Bloomington.

■ Sixth grade — First place, Erika Kingery, Woodward; second place, Joanne Barlow, Phelps; and third place, Trey Paterson, Woodward.

The contest is part of Washington County's Extended Learning Program, said LaRee Jones, extended learning coordinator.

"There are a lot of students who are really creative in theater and arts, and the only thing we had that was close to that

was debate," Jones said. "We really were lacking."

Story-telling gives the children an opportunity to be theatrical and creative, Jones said. And the rules were that students could not memorize or read the story from a book.

"If you do that, then it's not story-telling," she said. "You have to tell it in your own words."

The students performed for about 2 1/2 hours to an audience of nearly 200 parents and local residents.

The winners of the contest will perform during January and February at the pre-show for the Dixie Lights at the St. George Opera House.

All participants in the contest received a certificate and a medal.