

# Happy tales can come true for you

For The Spectrum

*"Once upon a time, and a very good time it was too, when the streets were paved with penny loaves and houses where whitewashed with buttermilk..."*  
(Irish)

And another story begins.

Television tells plenty of stories, but it leaves little to the imagination. Eager for stories that can be seen on the mental screen, people are returning to the word.

More than 250 storytelling festivals were held last year and St. George's was among them.

Psychologists say that stories tap the brain's memory structures. In his book, "Tell Me a Story," Roger C. Schank explains: "Human memory is story based. Not every experience makes a good story, but, if it does, the experience will be easier to remember. Ours is a world of stories."

Print is 500 years old. Writing is 5,000 years old, but stories have been around since time began.

Good stories help us to make good decisions, they help us to fill our lives with meaning, purpose and understanding. Stories extend our kinship with the past. They bring the long gone back to life for the young, and make a dead person into someone you'd want to emulate.



submitted

**Frankie Colton, a professional storyteller, performs on her accordion while relating "The Gypsies Will Steal You."**

## IF YOU GO

### Heritage Week presents children's storytelling fest

To celebrate Student Storytelling's fourth year, Heritage Week is devoting Tuesday and Wednesday to storytelling.

Student winners in school storytelling festivals held throughout Washington School District will perform at 1 p.m. Tuesday at three locations — the Opera House, Social Hall and Arts Museum. These talented students from grades third through fifth will present stories from six different categories — folktales, tall tales, fantasy/myths, fairytales, original, humorous and mystery. This shared partnership between St. George Heritage Week and Washington School District Accelerated Learning is a popular, exciting event that completes school competitions. Plan to attend.

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