

# 'Ivan' steeped in Christianity

Shaw native, Brocato, in town to sign book, read Thursday

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**GREENVILLE** – The older Ivan got, the more he realized he stood out. He did not want to be so tall. He wanted to be like the other people.

In Linda Rossetti Brocato's book "Ivan Becomes a Hero," the Shaw native tells the story of Ivan, a giraffe, dealing with his differences.

Brocato will be at Lagniappe Gifts, 1361 E. Reed Road, signing copies and reading the book Thursday, 3-6 p.m. The reading will take place around 4 p.m.

"In 'Ivan Becomes a Hero,' the story is about accepting yourself the way God made you," Sherry Smythe, Lagniappe Gifts, said. "It tells a wonderful story with a Christian view."

Brocato contacted Smythe regarding the book and once she read it, Smythe knew it would be a good fit.

"The book just fits right into my store," she said. "I sell children's books and other things for kids. Also, the author grew up in the Delta, so I told her we would love to have her come and do a signing."

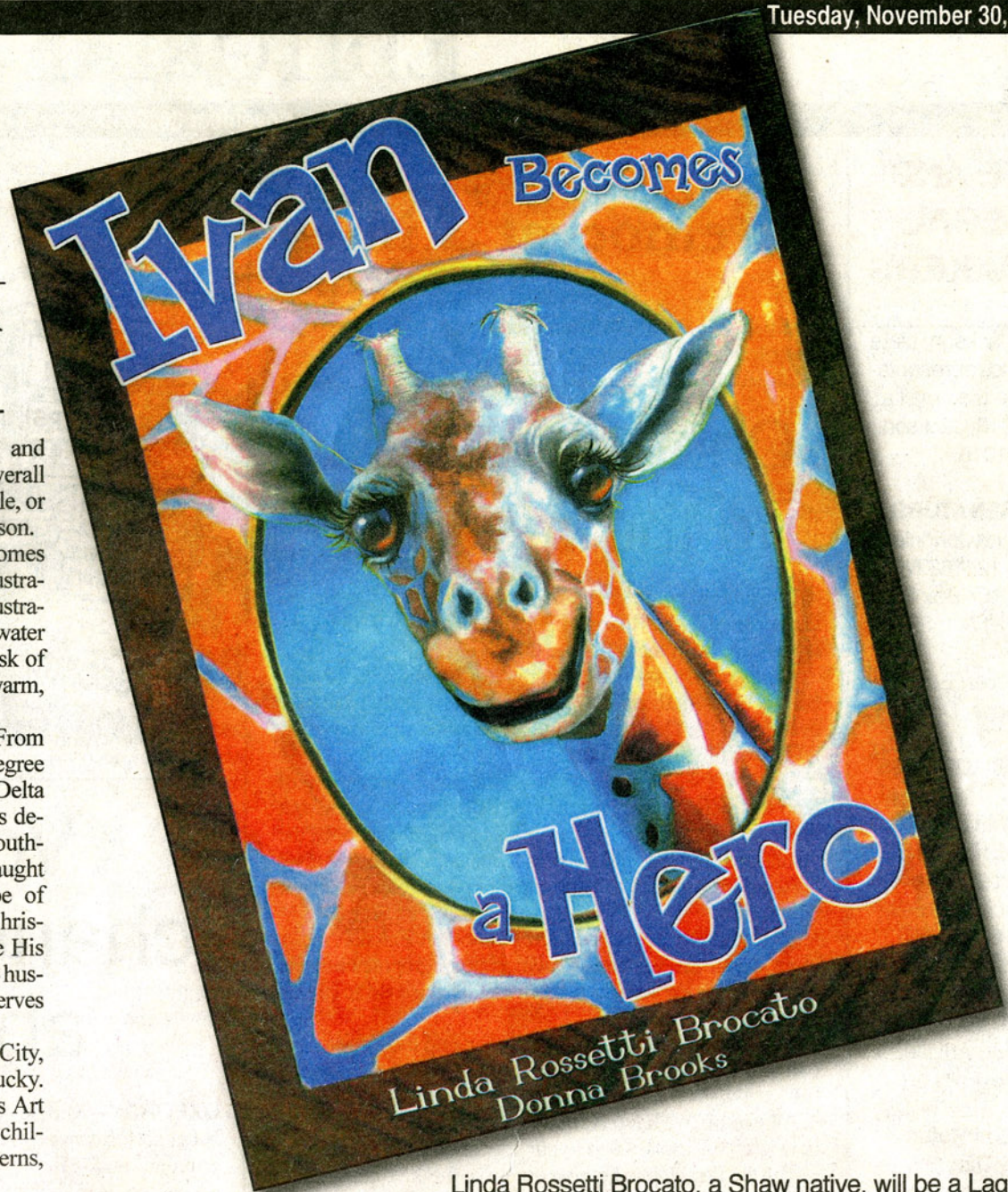
The book melds the story and Bible verses throughout. The overall message is that God made people, or giraffes, a certain way for a reason.

Another aspect of "Ivan Becomes a Hero" Smythe likes is the illustrations by Donna Brooks. Her illustrations show giraffes, zebras and water buffalos during the day and dusk of the African plane while using warm, rich colors.

Brocato was born in Shaw. From there she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Delta State University and a master's degree in reading from Nova Southeastern University. She has taught children in almost every type of school – public, private and Christian. She also founded Prepare His Ways Ministries, Inc. with her husband, Frank, 25 years ago and serves as vice-president.

Brooks was born in Dodge City, Kan., and now lives in Kentucky. She studied art at Minneapolis Art Institute. She has illustrated children's books, cross-stitch patterns, porcelain and fine art prints.

Call Lagniappe Gifts (662) 335-3722 for more information.



Linda Rossetti Brocato, a Shaw native, will be at Lagniappe Gifts Thursday to read and sign her book "Ivan Becomes a Hero." The book is illustrated by Donna Brooks.