

News and issues affecting our community

# Hyped about Harry

Potter mania hits Brookfield as final book is released

By Alan Hamari  
Staff Writer

Allison Struthers spent July 20 getting ready to say goodbye to an old friend.

Struthers, 21, was the first person in line at Brookfield's Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop for the midnight release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the seventh and final book in the phenomenally successful series about the teenage wizard and his pals.

Struthers, who grew up in Brookfield, was joined by about a dozen of her friends at the front of the line. She and her fellow Potter fans set up shop outside-Schwartz shortly after noon, nearly 12 hours before the book was released and nine hours before Schwartz opened

its doors for the release party. She's been with the books since she picked up "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in 1998. Struthers said it's been a unique experience to see the series grow in popularity.

### Fanaticism grows

"It's been really interesting to watch the fanaticism grow," she said. "It's the only time in my life I've been a trendsetter."

Fellow front-of-the-liner Caitlin Fuller, also 21, said she thinks the books will live on for generations.

"These will be books I give my kids," the Brookfield resident said.

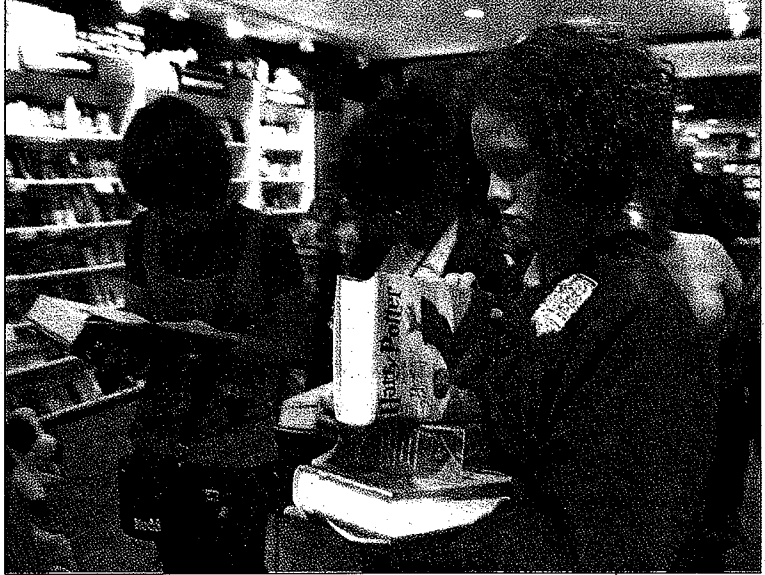
Behind Struthers and Fuller,

Please see **HARRY**, Page 4

"It's great. We can hardly contain our excitement."

**Karl Riebs,**

waiting for the release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"



NOW Photo by C.T. Kruger

Clair Springer (from right), Deena Phadnis and Alyssa Knight check the copies of the new Harry Potter book they bought at Harry W. Schwartz Books within minutes of the book's release, just after midnight July 21.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**7**

Harry Potter books in the series; the first was published in the U.S. in 1998

**64**

languages the Harry Potter series has been translated into, including ancient Greek and Latin

**12 million**

initial U.S. run of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows;" amazon.com reported about 2.2 million preorders for the book

**325 million**

estimated copies of Harry Potter books sold worldwide; about a third of those have been sold in the U.S.

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### TOP ONLINE STORIES

Last week's most-viewed staff stories:

- Playing with select company local actors display talents in 'Joseph'
- Opportunity knocks, Central doesn't answer Commission wants to limit play structures
- [BrookfieldNOW.com](http://BrookfieldNOW.com)
- [ElmGroveNOW.com](http://ElmGroveNOW.com)

Cindy Kilkenny says it is time for Brookfield to disband its Community Development Authority.

Brookfield City News  
[BrookfieldNOW.com](http://BrookfieldNOW.com)

**COMMUNITY VOICES**



### YOUR PHOTOS

Photo by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, [ElmGroveNOW.com](http://ElmGroveNOW.com) Contributor



### HARRY POTTER MANIA!

Reporter Alan Hamari shares the excitement of Harry Potter release night at Harry W. Schwartz in Brookfield. Check out his blog, written live from the scene.  
[BrookfieldNOW.com](http://BrookfieldNOW.com)

**GOING PRICES:** A house at 12800-Stephan Place in Elm-Grove recently sold for \$413,000. For more home sale listings, visit your local NOW site.

# HARRY

Continued from Page 3

32-year-old Wendy Gowan of Menomonee Falls was waiting with another group of Potterphiles. Gowan said she was second in line for "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," the predecessor to "Deathly Hallows," when it was released in 2005 and wanted to be in the front of the line this time.

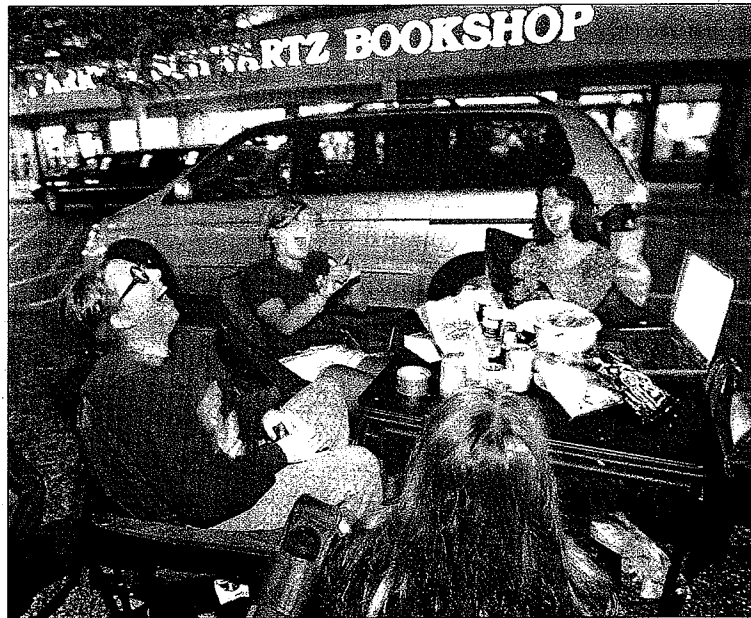
Since she arrived at 5 p.m. for that one, Gowan figured she'd be first when she got into line at 2:30 p.m., but she wasn't counting on the dedication of Struthers and her friends.

"I wanted to be first," Gowan said.

Gowan said she doesn't have a favorite book — "I love them all," she said — and likes that the series appeals to all ages.

### Fun all night long

But the release wasn't just about waiting in line. Schwartz staff members kept people busy with activities and games, including a scavenger hunt/quote identification quiz, a multi-question fan forum and an "In What Book ...?" contest. People could also sign up for a drawing for a trip to London. Fans could have their pic-



NOW Photo by C.T. Gruber

Erin Dolan (from left), Rachelle Dragani, Caitlin Dolan and other friends set up in the Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop parking lot with snacks and a laptop computer for playing music while they waited for the release of the final Harry Potter book.

tures taken as characters from the series, and staff members prepared Potter-related goodies, such as Chocolate Frogs and lightning bolt cookies.

While many of the fans in

line were at their third or fourth midnight release party, Schwartz saw its share of neophytes, too. Delafield's Karl Riebs spent his first midnight book release keeping an eye on

his 8-year-old son, Sam, as he and his friends ran around the store, casting spells at one another with their wands.

Karl said Sam wasn't the only one having fun.

**ONLINE**

Some useful Harry Potter links on the Web:

- JKROWLING.COM:** author J.K. Rowling's official site
- HARRYPOTTER.WARNERBROTHERS.COM:** official site for the Harry Potter movies
- SCHOLASTIC.COM/HARRYPOTTER:** official Scholastic Books site for the Potter books
- THE-LEAKY-CAULDRON.ORG:** popular fan site featuring online videos, discussions and podcasts
- MUGGLENET.COM:** another popular fan site with discussion of the books, movies and more

"It's great," Karl said. "We can hardly contain our excitement."

Karl said he and Sam have been rereading the books in preparation for the final installment. He said he thinks the books appeal to all ages because the characters are so compelling and the whole series is "just a lot of fun."

Sam couldn't give a definitive answer on his favorite book.

"I can't know for sure because it's probably going to be (book) seven," he said.

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## Teens write best ending to Potter book in library contest

While most of the world spent last weekend devouring the 700-plus pages of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," anxious to figure out the fate of Harry and his wizarding friends, two Brookfield teens already knew the conclusion.

Well, sort of.

Brookfield East sophomore Claire Palmer and Pilgrim Park

eighth-grader Henri St. Pierre were the winners of the Brookfield Public Library's J.K. Rowling for a Day contest, which invited Waukesha County teens to write the ending of the super-popular "Potter" series. The contest stipulated that the ending didn't have to be correct, it just had to be well-written and engaging.

Claire, 15, and Henri, 13, each received a deluxe copy of the new book. By July 23, Claire had already finished hers, and Henri said he was about 600 pages into the 759-page "Deathly Hallows."

Claire and Henri's stories were similar — both had Harry being one of the seven Horcruxes, which are pieces of the

evil Lord Voldemort's soul.

Claire had Harry returning to Godric's Hollow, his parents' home, to face Voldemort.

Henri's ending took a darker turn. Ron, one of Harry's best friends, dies; and Harry sacrifices himself to kill Voldemort and save his friends.

Henri said book seven, "Deathly Hallows," has been his

favorite, but he's partial to book three, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Claire said she likes the fifth installment, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," but is leaning toward book seven "because it's the last one."

—Alan Hamari, Staff Writer

# NOW

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