

Preparing for the witching hour



ARIC CRABB — Staff

RENEE RETTIG prepares for a Harry Potter release party to celebrate the final book of the series at The Book Shop in Hayward, which will hold a release party Friday at midnight.

Hayward shop sets event to celebrate final chapter

By Aaron Morrison
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As fans worldwide gear up to get their paws on copies of the final book in the Harry Potter series, local merchants prepare for book release events to satisfy eager readers and to boost awareness of independently owned book stores.

The Book Shop, at 1007 B St. between Foothill Boulevard and Main Street, will hold a book release event in conjunction with The Bistro next door at 9 p.m. Friday with live music from Bay Area Celtic rock band Avalon Rising.

Copies of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the last installment in U.K. author J.K. Rowling's series, will be sold no sooner than midnight Friday at major chains, independent bookstores and at The Book Shop, which already had about 90 pre-orders by Monday morning.

"I can't think of any other book release that has galvanized the community and made so many new readers, young and old,"

If you go

WHAT: Harry Potter and the Independent Crusade: Book release event

WHEN: 9 p.m. Friday

WHERE: The Book Shop and The Bistro, at 1007 and 1001 B St., Hayward

said Renee Rettig, the shop's clerk.

Those who place preorders do not have to show up at the shop's midnight release event. Rettig said the shop will honor book reservations. The business, however, is hoping for about 125 people at its party, Rettig said. Shop owner Hank Maschal preferred not to reveal how many books the store ordered.

Before purchasing the book, attendees who are old enough can enjoy music and beer at The Bistro, which will raffle off two copies of the new book after its official release.

"The event will build up excitement for the book and help the bookstore," said Victor Kralj, owner of the Bistro. "Every time you buy a beer, you will get a raffle ticket."

This is The Bistro's first party in conjunction with release of a Harry Potter book. The festivities are for a 21-and-over crowd only, Kralj said.

Before deciding he would buy his book from The Book Shop, John Bass of Castro Valley said he noticed an advertisement for the store's event at a chain bookstore's Starbucks and called in a pre-order on Monday.

"I've been in that store several times," Bass said. "They have a good political section, and the owner is nice."

Bass, a fan of the Harry Potter series, remembers reading the very first installment to his stepson.

"The biggest thing about these books is that they are stories about the power of love

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Bookstore prepares for wizard's spell

► **POTTER**, from Local 1

and friendship," Bass said.

Unsure if he will attend the events on Friday night, Bass said he is pleased that he could support the local business.

Scholastic, the book's U.S. publisher, plans to print an initial 12 million copies of "Deathly Hallows," a record for the pub-

lishing industry.

There are more than 120 million copies of Harry Potter books in print in the United States. All six books — "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix"

and "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" — have been best-sellers in the U.S. and around the world.

The hardcover version of the newest book will retail for \$34.99.

The Book Shop will not open its doors until 11 p.m.

Eager fans in San Leandro can attend a Harry Potter party at A World of Books, at 137

Pelton Center Way, from 10 p.m. Friday to 12:01 a.m. Saturday. The store's two-hour pre-sale will guarantee each customer a copy of the book at midnight, a store employee said.

The event will include raffles and face painting for children.

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