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Local author signing attracts writers of all ages

Barnes and Noble hosts biannual event for Big Bend area authors to reach community

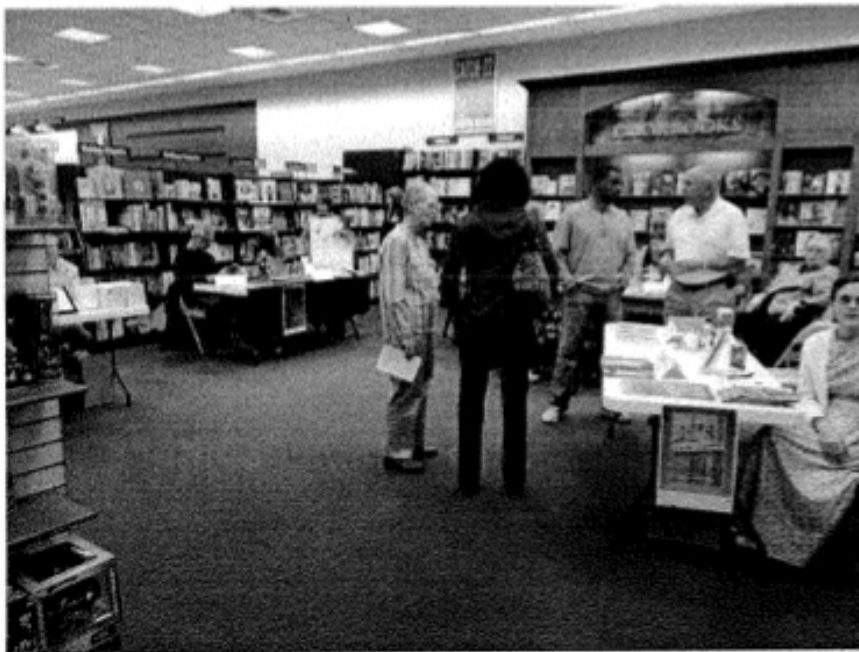
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The Barnes and Noble in Tallahassee Mall hosted a local book author signing on Saturday, Nov. 10. The biannual event aims to highlight Big Bend area writers. / Lindsay Marshall/FSView

Written by
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Staff Writer

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On Saturday, Nov. 10, 17 local authors from the Big Bend area gathered at Barnes and Noble in Tallahassee Mall for a book signing event. The biannual event is generally for authors who are not picked up by mainstream publishers and who self publish.

"They have trouble getting their books in stores," Barnes and Noble Community Relations Manager Toya O'Hora said. "Sometimes they meet another publisher or author, and get opportunities like speaking arrangements because of the subject of their book. They have fun."

The authors at the signing ranged from 16-year-old Brooke Harrison, who has written three self-published fantasy novels, to 96



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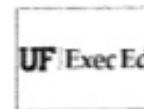
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16-year-old nonfiction writer Bernyce H. Clausell, a reverend at a local Baptist church.

Rev. Clausell started her autobiography No Time to Die three years ago, and published it this past May. She has written a short novel about the children she worked with at Griffin Middle School in the Headstart Program.

"I enjoyed writing, and after I stopped writing, there were so many more things that should have gone in the book," said Clausell. "You can't put it all in one book. As the Bible says, 'so much more could have been written.' So

more was written in 'No Time to Die.'"

Clausell was retired from working in the church for 26 years, but after the pastor left, the job fell to her, as she still held the position of Pastor in Meritus.

"I was not elated to go back to pastoring, but I was blessed to go back," said Clausell. "Thank God the members wanted me back."

16-year-old Harrison spends her time reading books by authors like J.K. Rowling, Agatha Christie and Rick Riordan. She enjoys writing fantasy fiction.

"I have always loved writing," said Harrison. "I love reading, so that's where it came from. I have always wanted to do what my favorite authors do: make you laugh and cry."

Harrison started writing her trilogy at only twelve years old.

"At Trinity Catholic School in seventh grade, many of my friends and I liked to write, and we passed our stories around," said Harrison. "They encouraged me to continue writing, and that led to books two and three."

Harrison's father edited her books, which were published through CreateSpace, a self publishing company that works closely with amazon.com. CreateSpace prints books on demand, which are being sold through both amazon.com and target.com.

"They aren't sold in stores," said Harrison. "But we are formatting them for Kindle and Nook."

Many members of the community were in attendance at the event, including FSU students like junior Kristy Stewart and freshman Kristina McCabe.

"I think it's really cool that she's 16 and already wrote three books," said McCabe.



The other authors who participated included Sharon Outlaw, Jerrel Phillips, Larry Benson, Wendi Adelson, Joyce Cotter, Bruce Deterding, Monte Palmer, Gayle Swedmark Hughes, Mary Kane, Mindy Ayer Lee, Bruce Pelham, Charlotte Lauver, Ann Stevens, Melissa Diane Hudson and Paul Wheelhouse.

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