



# De Soto Public Library

## Notes & News

### September 2011



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#### *School is in Session*

In September, kids are adjusting back to early bedtimes, early rising and homework. Hopefully your children, grandchildren and neighbor kids spent some quality time with a variety of books this summer to keep their reading skills sharp.



Even though schools have their own libraries for students, it is important to continue your support for your

local library as well.

Be a good example for your kids; stop in the library and choose a book for your own reading enjoyment. Not only will you find the relaxation that reading brings, but you'll be keeping your brain active.

For a list of ways to keep your brain active at all ages, read page 4. Let us help you stay active at the De Soto Public Library .

**We're OPEN**

**Tues & Wed**

**1:00-8:00**

**Saturday**

**8:00-1:00**

**Contact Us:**

**despl@mwt.net**

**648-3593**

#### *Did You Know?*

All about the many services we offer our patrons

To assist those who have needs related to aging, we have these items:

- ◆ A full spectrum gooseneck lamp to brighten the pages (also provides the benefits of sunlight when it's too cold to be outdoors!)
- ◆ Magazines in large print and numerous books and audio books available through WRLS lending system
- ◆ A cozy corner with an easy chair
- ◆ A walker available for use by anyone needing mobility assistance in the library

## *A Sample of Our Newest Acquisitions*

### **Books:**

- ◆ A Stolen Life: a Memoir by Jaycee Dugard
- ◆ The Last Oracle (Sigma Force) by James Rollins
- ◆ Long Gone: A Novel by Alafair Burke (thriller)
- ◆ Before I Go To Sleep by S. J. Watson (thriller)
- ◆ By Sherrilyn Kenyon: Blood Trinity, Phantom in the Night & Whispered Lies
- ◆ Miss Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs (teen sci-fi)
- ◆ One Summer by David Baldacci
- ◆ Lion of Babylon by T. Davis Bunn
- ◆ Llama Llama Home With Mama by Anna Dewdney (ages 4-8)
- ◆ Last Werewolf by Glen Duncan (Adult Horror)
- ◆ Germline by T. C. McCarthy (Sci-Fi)
- ◆ The Snowman by Jo Nesbó (Thriller)
- ◆ Can't Hurry Love by Christie Ridgeway
- ◆ The Last Olympian (Percy Jackson book 5) by Rick Riordan
- ◆ Flashback: A Novel by Dan Simmons
- ◆ A Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants by Lee Allen Peterson
- ◆ Are 51: An Uncensored History of America's Top Secret Military Base by Annie Jacobsen
- ◆ Wonders of the Universe by Brian Cox (non fiction)
- ◆ Four Laws that Drive the Universe by Peter Atkins
- ◆ The Art of Distilling Whiskey and Other Spirits: An Enthusiast's Guide to the Artisan Distilling of Potent Potables by Bill Owens
- ◆ Genesis: Translation and Commentary by Robert Alter
- ◆ Healing Herbal Wines, Vinegars & Syrups: Storey Country Wisdom by Joyce A Wardwell
- ◆ American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence by Pauline Maier (non fiction)
- ◆ Carte Blanche by Jeffery Deaver
- ◆ Avalon: A Novel by Anya Seton
- ◆ Escape by Barbara Delinsky
- ◆ Smokin' Seventeen by Janet Evanovich
- ◆ Crank by Ellen Hopkins
- ◆ Fancy Nancy Stellar Stargazer by Jane O'Conner (children 3-6)
- ◆ Now You See Her by James Patterson
- ◆ Oceans Apart by Kare Kingsbury
- ◆ Middle School: the Worst Years of my Life by James Patterson (Young Adult)

### **DVDs:**

- ◆ Festival Express, Janis Joplin
- ◆ A Grandpa for Christmas, Ernest Borgnine
- ◆ God Grew Tired of US, John Bul Dau
- ◆ True Grit (2010)
- ◆ The Tourist
- ◆ Ushpizin (2004)
- ◆ Simone (2002)
- ◆ Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules
- ◆ Touch the Top of the World
- ◆ Lincoln Lawyer (2011)
- ◆ Nanny McPhee Returns

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## *Character Preview - Stephanie Plum*

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I first heard of Stephanie Plum three years ago while lunching with a fellow reader/writer who bemoaned “if I could *be* just one character, I’d be Stephanie Plum!”

While normally not a detective/crime reader, I decided Stephanie sounded like someone I should check out. And thus began the long trek through Janet Evanovich’s series on the pistol-toting bounty hunter’s antics and adventures, currently numbering seventeen with the eighteenth available late November.

The series also has 4 ‘between the numbers’ books that can be read independently or along with the series. And much to the delight of fans, the first book is now being made into a movie, although the author’s website does note that she has no say in the plot, characters, casting, etc. It will be interesting to see if Hollywood remains true to Stephanie Plum as she’s been written.

Although every book gives enough synopsis of Stephanie Plum’s background, it is best to start with the first book and read straight through since many references to previous stories pop up throughout the series.

Starting with the first, *One for the Money*, which was published in 1994, the reader follows Plum on her hilarious entry into the world of bond-enforcement at her cousin Vinny’s bonds agency in Trenton, New Jersey.

The predictable things happen in most of Evanovich’s plots, but what is enjoyable is the fact that her characters are developed so well that you really enjoy the story and never have

to wonder ‘would she really do that?’ Yes, Evanovich’s characters really would do the crazy things they do!

Some characters you’ll become familiar with throughout the series:

- ◆ Joe Morelli: high-school bad boy turned cop who thinks Stephanie has no business being in law-enforcement. Oh, he’s also an ex-fling and calls her ‘cupcake’.
- ◆ Lulu: a retired street-walker whose wardrobe consists of spandex and stilettos is one of the best characters created in this series. She becomes Stephanie’s sidekick.
- ◆ Ranger: anybody who’s read this series can tell you that Ranger is...Ranger. An ex-special forces type who moonlights for Vinny, Ranger saves Stephanie's skin on more than one occasion. Eventually in the series he starts his own specialized business and Stephanie moonlights for him.
- ◆ Grandma Mazur: maternal grandmother to Stephanie whose sole purpose in life is the enjoyment of funerals and wakes.
- ◆ Walter Dunphy, aka “Mooner”: a cross between Shaggy (of *Scooby Doo* fame) and Harry Dunne (*Dumb and Dumber*) who joins in the crime-fighting now & again.
- ◆ Connie: keeps the books at Vinny’s business and assigns cases to Stephanie. She also has ties to organized crime.
- ◆ Grandma Bella: Joe Morelli’s Italian grandmother who believes that Stephanie has corrupted her grandson. Grandma Bella loves

to 'put the eye' on Stephanie.

- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Plum: Stephanie's parents, who only want to see her settle down and give them grandchildren already. Stephanie's father is retired but drives cab for fun and her mother irons and cooks when stressed.
- ◆ Rex: Stephanie's long-suffering pet hamster who is nearly killed on a regular basis.

Along with the cast of zany backup characters

are a never-ending lineup of even crazier criminals and law-benders (called Skips) that Stephanie has to catch if she wishes to keep her job.

While there's nothing deeply philosophical about this series, it is gut-busting funny at many turns. Fast, easy reading!

My score for this character:



*Cheryl Russell, of De Soto, is an avid reader and sometimes-writer.*

## *Stay Brain-Fit!*

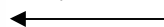
The garden is done producing, the lawn's been mowed for the last time and the turning leaves indicate that it's time to hunker down for another cool season here in the Midwest. But just because the winter months find us indoors more often than not is no reason why we shouldn't remain active. Use the winter months to keep your brain active with these tips from the Online Education Database ([www.oedb.org](http://www.oedb.org)).

- ◆ **Use your brain.** There is a lot of knowledge up there, so put it into action. Doing tasks such as thinking through problems or avoiding the calculator for simple arithmetic is one way to exercise your mind.
- ◆ **Crosswords.** If you get the newspaper, work the crossword puzzles each day. They usually get progressively more difficult as the week goes on, culminating in the most challenging puzzle on Sunday. If you don't get the newspaper, you can find many free crossword puzzles online.
- ◆ **Scrabble.** Play Scrabble with friends in person or play online. Scrabble is a great way to get your brain thinking.
- ◆ **News.** Keep up with current events. Whether your interest is politics, world news, or your local small-town gossip, staying current with the news stimulates your mind.
- ◆ **Read.** Read anything...books, magazines, the back of cereal boxes. Reading keeps your mind pumping, and you learn new things at the same time. It's definitely a bonus if your reading material has some depth to it, though.
- ◆ **Puzzles.** While working jigsaw puzzles, you must think about how the shapes and colors match up. The problem-solving skills of working puzzles helps keep your mind sharp.
- ◆ **Movies.** Watch a thought-provoking movie. Movies like [Crash](#), [Fight Club](#), and [American Beauty](#) can leave your brain pondering what you watched for days afterward.
- ◆ **Word puzzles.** Solve [brainteasers](#) such as anagrams, logic problems, or rebuses. You can have fun with these puzzles any time you have a few extra minutes.
- ◆ **Video games.** Who said video games are a waste of time? Some [video game playing](#) can help fight Alzheimer's.
- ◆ **Hobbies.** Start a new hobby or take up an old, forgotten one to get your creative juices flowing.

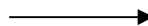
## Brain Power Puzzles: Sudoku

	6	4			2			
		8		5		1		4
7				1		3		
5					4		3	
		3	8		5	4		
	4		7					6
		5		7				8
2		7		8		6		
			3			7	2	

Easy



Medium



How to play:

Each row, column & box must contain numbers 1-9 with no repeats

6	9	1		3				8
					9	4	2	
	3				7		1	
					6	8		2
	8			2			6	
5		6	4					
	4		3				7	
	5	8	6					
3				4		1	8	9

Generated by <http://www.opensky.ca/~jdhildeb/software/sudokugen>

For information on strategy to solve Sudoku puzzles, click [here](#).

## Opportunities and New Services

### Attention Collectors, Crafters & Artists

The De Soto Public Library offers 2 glass cases for display of patrons' artwork, crafts or collectibles that you'd like to share with the public. See Will for more details.

### Just the fax, please!

Items can be faxed from the library for the cost of 25¢ per page.

### Have Something to Say?

If you live in the service area of the De Soto Public Library or use this library, you can contribute!

- ◆ Write a book review, an author profile or an article about a hobby
- ◆ Share a recipe or photo
- ◆ Be in the spotlight or nominate someone local for the spotlight

Difficult. Answers on page 7

	5		6		7	8		
							1	3
	4	3	1		8			
	2	8						7
6			3		4			2
5						4	9	
			7		6	9	2	
7	9							
		2	5		9		3	

## *Summer Reading Program Report*

Our wildly successful summer program ran for 10 weeks this summer. Here's a brief report on the final tallies.

Number of kids who participated at least once during the summer: 38

Number of kids who participated at least five times during the summer: 23

Number of kids who attended at all 10 programs: 4

Number of minutes reported read by the 38 participants: 22,365

Number of door prizes, weekly prizes & end of the year prizes handed out: too many to count!

Thank you to ALL who participated, donated, brought kids & helped out all summer long!

## *What Can the Library Do For You?*

The De Soto Public Library's Board of Directors is always looking for input from the community. What is it you think we could do differently, better or new?

We exist to serve the community in a variety of ways. Sure, we loan out books and magazines, offer internet usage and a place to read a book on a cold day. But do you have an idea?

Here are a few other additional possibilities to consider.

We're looking to hear from parents who would be interesting in helping organize a once-a-month kids day at the library. If interested, email to [crussell@mwt.net](mailto:crussell@mwt.net) with

"Library Suggestions" or something similar in the subject line.

Would the area kids like a holiday craft date where they could make affordable craft projects to give as family gifts? How about a Scrabble tournament or a Family Read-A-Thon? A kids' writing workshop? Poetry reading day? There are many things we could do, but we need ideas and people willing to assist in the planning and promoting.

Considering the great turnout we had all summer for the kids' program, we know there is a community full of great people who love the library as much as we do! Be involved and become even more a part of our community.



### *Will's Corner*

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

If you do not wish to receive this emailed newsletter from the De Soto Public Library anymore, please send an email to [despl@mwt.net](mailto:despl@mwt.net) with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. To add an email address to our mailing list, email us!

## *Brain Puzzle Answers*

1	6	4	9	3	2	5	8	7
3	2	8	6	5	7	1	9	4
7	5	9	4	1	8	3	6	2
5	7	2	1	6	4	8	3	9
6	9	3	8	2	5	4	7	1
8	4	1	7	9	3	2	5	6
4	3	5	2	7	6	9	1	8
2	1	7	5	8	9	6	4	3
9	8	6	3	4	1	7	2	5

6	9	1	2	3	4	7	5	8
8	7	5	1	6	9	4	2	3
2	3	4	8	5	7	9	1	6
9	1	3	5	7	6	8	4	2
4	8	7	9	2	3	5	6	1
5	2	6	4	1	8	3	9	7
1	4	9	3	8	2	6	7	5
7	5	8	6	9	1	2	3	4
3	6	2	7	4	5	1	8	9

2	5	1	6	3	7	8	4	9
8	7	6	4	9	5	2	1	3
9	4	3	1	2	8	6	7	5
4	2	8	9	5	1	3	6	7
6	1	9	3	7	4	5	8	2
5	3	7	8	6	2	4	9	1
3	8	5	7	1	6	9	2	4
7	9	4	2	8	3	1	5	6
1	6	2	5	4	9	7	3	8