Georgia Library Spotlight - Roddenbery Memorial Library

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Roddenbery Memorial Library

Roddenbery Memorial Library in Cairo, Georgia is a single-site, single-county, rural library serving Grady County in Southwest Georgia. Cities and towns served by the library include Cairo, Whigham, Calvary, Reno, and Pine Park. The Roddenbery Memorial Library, first known as the Cairo Public Library, opened in January of 1939. The small library was located on the second floor of City Hall and was led by an outstanding woman, Miss Wessie Connell, who possessed a strong commitment to serve the community. In 1964 the library moved into a new building on North Broad Street, a gift of the Roddenbery family to the community. Miss Wessie was the library’s director for the first 48 years until her death in 1987. Miss Wessie became a legend in Georgia and is well respected throughout the library world.

Pamela S. Grigg, the current director and only the fourth in the library’s history, brought extensive experience in rural public libraries and a passion for providing outstanding services and relevant materials to all citizens of Grady County. She is often heard saying, “the library belongs to everyone in the county and should be a gathering place, a comfortable venue to experience, explore and engage all of our senses.” From learning to read, to enjoying music, stories, newspapers, or books, all of these things and many more are accessible at the Roddenbery Memorial Library.

The mission of the Roddenbery Memorial Library is to continue its commitment to public service, assisting all individuals and groups in Grady County to attain the highest level of educational, cultural, economic, and social enrichment possible.

Offering free access to Mango language programs is one of the many ways that the library serves its local community. In order to promote Mango, the library staff came together wearing their Mango T-shirts (which were received as a result of Ernesteine Daniels, information desk supervisor, entering the Mango promotion contest) and wished their patrons a Merry Christmas in twelve different languages. The Roddenbery
Memorial Library staff has invited everyone to take advantage of this cutting-edge, language-learning program known for its user friendliness in more than sixty different languages. All Grady County citizens need to get started is the PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services) library card.