



anythink™

A REVOLUTION OF RANGEVIEW LIBRARIES

Adams library system worst in state

Voters defeated two tax increases

By Chris Frates
Denver Post Staff Writer

The Adams County Library System is the worst large library system in the state and has been for years, according to state records and library officials.

In every vital category, from circulation to staffing, Adams County libraries rank last among their peers.

"It's pretty bad. Relative to basic standards about library service. ... Adams

County is pretty much at the bottom of the heap," said Jamie LaRue, president of the Colorado Public Library Association.

The reason, those involved say, is simple — money.

In 2001, for example, the Arapahoe Library District received \$64.40 in local funding for every person in the district. Adams, on the other hand, brought in \$9.36, according to the Colorado State Library.

Put another way, the Arapahoe district brought in about \$9.3 million more than Adams in 2001 with about 66,550 fewer people.

The Adams County Library System consists of six branches and has a 2003 budget of \$3.8 million.

The system is funded by property taxes. A dedicated mill levy was established to support the library in 1988, but since then, voters have denied two attempts, most recently last year, to raise the tax.

It's unusual for citizens to vote down a library mill levy increase, said Keith Curry Lance, Colorado State Library research director.

Cheryl Dean, 20, said she's not surprised people have voted against increased tax support for the libraries.

As she perused the books in the sys-

tem's Brighton branch recently, she said she rarely uses her hometown library. Instead, she visits one in Fort Lupton where the service and selection are better.

"If (patrons) wanted something right away, I would suggest they go to Fort Lupton," she said, "because here, they usually don't have what you're looking for."

Without money to begin remedying the system's problems, library officials feel hopeless, LaRue said.

"They get trapped in the mentality of the poor," he said.

SEE LIBRARY ON 6B

WHERE WE'VE COME FROM

... Black church has always played an important role within the African-American community. ... they discriminated against us.



WHERE WE ARE NOW

ANYTHINK STRATEGIC PLAN

2018-2022

A vibrant community festival scene at dusk. In the foreground, two women in traditional green and white attire are dancing joyfully. The woman on the left wears a green headwrap and a white top with a green patterned skirt, holding a microphone. The woman on the right is also in traditional dress, with her arms raised in celebration. Behind them, a large group of young women in white t-shirts and black shorts are lined up, some with their arms raised. The background is filled with more people, trees, and festive lights, creating a lively and communal atmosphere.

COMMUNITY

A photograph of a man and a young boy at an outdoor festival. The man, on the left, is wearing glasses and a light-colored button-down shirt, and is playing a trumpet. The boy, on the right, is wearing a light blue t-shirt and is holding a trombone. They are both smiling. In the background, a large crowd of people is seated on the grass, watching the event. The word "CULTURE" is overlaid in large, orange, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

CULTURE

CAREER

A man in a dark shirt and glasses stands on the left, gesturing with his right hand while holding a smartphone in his left. He is addressing a group of people seated at long tables. Each person has a laptop in front of them, and a small white microphone on a tripod is positioned near each laptop. The setting appears to be a library or a modern classroom, with bookshelves filled with books visible in the background. Large windows on the right side of the room let in natural light. A sign with the word "read" is visible on the wall in the background. The overall atmosphere is professional and educational.

CHALLENGES



AT CAPACITY

HOURS & LOCATIONS

Anythink Bennett
495 Seventh Street
Bennett, CO 80102

303.405.3231
10 am - 7 pm Tues & Thurs
10 am - 5:30 pm Wed, Fri & Sat
Closed Sun & Mon

Anythink Brighton
327 E. Bridge Street
Brighton, CO 80601

303.405.3230
9:30 am - 8:30 pm Mon - Thurs
9:30 am - 5:30 pm Fri & Sat
Closed Sun

Anythink Commerce City
7185 Monaco Street
Commerce City, CO 80022

303.287.0063
10 am - 7 pm Tues & Thurs
9:30 am - 5:30 pm Wed, Fri & Sat
Closed Sun & Mon

Anythink Huron
9417 Huron Street
Thornton, CO 80260

303.452.7534
9:30 am - 8:30 pm Mon - Thurs
9:30 am - 5:30 pm Fri & Sat
Closed Sun

Anythink Perl Mack
7611 Hilltop Circle
Denver, CO 80221

303.428.3576
11 am - 7 pm Tues & Thurs
9:30 am - 5:30 pm Wed, Fri & Sat
Closed Sun & Mon

Anythink Wright Farms
5877 East 120th Avenue
Thornton, CO 80602

303.405.3200
9:30 am - 8:30 pm Mon - Thurs
9:30 am - 5:30 pm Fri & Sat
1 - 5 pm Sun

RESTRICTED HOURS AT MANY LOCATIONS

**ANYTHINK BOARD CONSIDERING
BALLOT PROPOSAL**

IF FUNDED

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES



INCREASE PROGRAMMING FOR KIDS





ADDITIONAL TECH HELP FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED IT





NEW FACILITIES



anythink

A RANGEVIEW LIBRARY



EXPANDED HOURS



FICTION

FICTI

EXPANDED COLLECTIONS

IF UNFUNDED



WAITLIST FOR PROGRAMS



NOT ENOUGH COMPUTERS TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND



UNABLE TO BUILD NEW FACILITIES TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND



RANGEVIEW LIBRARY DISTRICT

HOURS

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 11 AM - 7 PM

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY

UNABLE TO EXPAND HOURS

WHAT'S NEXT?