

DailyTrib Coverage of the Llano Library

[The DailyTrib](#) has covered the Llano Library controversy from the beginning. Step-by-step, the headlines tell the tale of a county government and theocrats collaborating to cripple and destroy a public library system. They've expressed their intention to go after the school libraries next.

We highly recommend subscribing to the Trib, it's a lot of journalism for a great price.

Dates for each article are contained within the link. First paragraphs of each article serve to provide a handy timeline and an overview of lawsuits against the Llano County Commissioners Court by the citizens of Llano County, TX.

Llano County closes library system to review content of children's materials

Llano County Library System patrons found themselves closed out of three library branches for three days leading up to Christmas. They were also cut off from the online portal, OverDrive, after county officials called for a "review" of children and young adult materials.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2021/12/23/llano-county-libraries-closed-by-commissioners-for-review-of-childrens-content/>

After look at kids' books, Llano County to discuss library system, create new board

The Llano County Commissioners Court will discuss the county library system during its meeting Monday, Jan. 10. The Commissioners Court previously directed the Llano County Library System's three branches to close for three days in December so staff could evaluate youth and children's materials. During a previous statement, Llano County Judge Ron Cunningham said the evaluation was to "ensure placement of books at all three locations is consistent with the age-appropriate section."

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/01/07/after-look-at-kids-books-llano-county-to-discuss-library-system-create-new-board/>

Llano County Library Advisory Board discusses OverDrive access

Members of the new Llano County Library Advisory Board met Monday, Jan. 24, to discuss library business, including the county's online reading services. About 30 residents attended the meeting in the Kingsland Branch Library, which was the board's first public meeting since the Llano County Commissioners Court reorganized the board earlier in January.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/01/25/llano-county-library-advisory-board-discusses-overdrive-access/>

Llano County OKs new online library service despite access concerns

In about four weeks, maybe longer, the Llano County Library system will switch its e-book service from OverDrive to Bibliotheca, which does not work with all e-book readers. Currently, the system does not provide e-book service because the Llano County Commissioners Court suspended OverDrive service in December.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/03/01/llano-county-oks-online-library-service-switch-despite-access-concerns/>

Llano County Library Advisory Board closes meetings to the public

The Llano County Library Advisory Board voted to hold future meetings in private during its Thursday, March 3, meeting. The decision followed a presentation from Matthew Rienstra, assistant attorney to the county, on the Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/03/04/llano-county-library-advisory-board-closes-meetings-to-the-public/>

Anti-censorship group forms to oppose Library Advisory Board

A group of Llano County residents is seeking legal support to fight censorship and other actions by the Llano County Library Advisory Board they say negatively affect the county's library system and its patrons.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/03/07/anti-censorship-group-forms-to-oppose-library-advisory-board/>

Kingsland librarian fired amid controversy over advisory board

Suzette Baker might seek legal action after she was fired March 9 from her job as head librarian of Llano County's Kingsland Branch Library, 125 W. Polk St. The reasons given for her dismissal were insubordination and failure to follow instructions.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/03/17/kingsland-librarian-fired-as-controversy-over-advisory-board-continues/>

Llano County library issue draws crowd, national press

A packed house greeted the Llano County Commissioners Court at its regular meeting March 28, most attending because of an agenda item relating to the county's library system. Public interest in the library system followed the recent dissolution and creation of the county's Library Advisory Board, the suspension of new book acquisitions, the recent decision to close the Library Advisory Board meetings to the public, switching the county library system's online reading services from OverDrive to Bibliotheca, and the removal of books from library shelves.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/03/30/llano-library-issue-draws-crowd-national-press/>

Llano County library injunction granted; appeal filed

The Llano County Library System must return controversial books it removed from circulation in 2022 to library shelves and the system's digital catalog within 24 hours of a judge's order, which came down Thursday, March 30. The library system is also enjoined from removing any books from the catalog for any reason before the case is settled, either out of court or in a jury trial set for Oct. 24

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/03/31/llano-library/>

Llano County could close libraries

Llano County commissioners could decide to shut down the county library system during a special meeting set for 3 p.m. Thursday, April 13. The county is embroiled in a civil lawsuit that has drawn national attention over the removal of 12 controversial books.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/04/10/2-llano-library-lawsuit-defendants-ordered-before-judge-april-27/>

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The Llano County Library Advisory Board voted to hold future meetings in private during its Thursday, March 3, meeting. The decision followed a presentation from Matthew Rienstra, assistant attorney to the county, on the Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/03/04/llano-county-library-advisory-board-closes-meetings-to-the-public/>

Llano County faces federal lawsuit over censorship in library system

A federal lawsuit is being filed against Llano County officials over claims that actions taking place in the county's library system violate rights in the First and Fourteenth amendments. A complaint, which is the legal

document needed to initiate a lawsuit, was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, a federal district court, at about 10 a.m. Monday, April 25.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/04/25/llano-county-faces-federal-lawsuit-over-censorship-in-library-system/>

Llano County libraries focus of film crew as e-book access restored

Llano County Library System patrons once again have access to an e-book service, although it is not the same as the one turned off in December at the recommendation of the newly formed Llano County Library Advisory Board. A new service was approved by the Llano County Commissioners Court at its regular meeting Monday, May 9. The service became available the same day.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/05/09/llano-county-libraries-focus-of-film-crew-as-e-book-access-restored/>

Preliminary injunction request filed against Llano County Library System

A request for a preliminary injunction against the Llano County Library System was filed in U.S. District Court on Monday, May 9, the same day the Llano County Commissioners Court voted to change e-reader services based on the material available to young readers.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/05/10/preliminary-injunction-request-filed-against-llano-county-library-system/>

No outside counsel hired for Llano County library civil suit

The Llano County Commissioners Court voted to remove the one and only item on the special meeting agenda Thursday, May 12, after a brief statement from Llano County Attorney Dwain Rogers. The meeting was called to discuss hiring outside counsel to handle a civil lawsuit filed against the county, its library system director, and the Library Advisory Board.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/05/13/no-outside-counsel-hired-for-llano-county-library-civil-suit/>

Texas intervenes in Llano County Library lawsuit; motion to dismiss filed

A joint motion to dismiss a civil case against Llano County and its library system was filed Wednesday, June 8, in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, Austin Division, with the state of Texas listed as an intervenor-defendant along with "Llano County, et.al., Defendants."

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/06/10/texas-intervenes-in-llano-library-lawsuit-motion-to-dismiss-filed/>

Llano County approves allocating \$150,000 to fight library lawsuit

A lawsuit filed against Llano County and its library system once again packed the Commissioners Court on Monday, June 13. Commissioners voted to move \$150,000 from two different line items in the county's budget to provide legal representation for all of the people named as defendants in the U.S. District Court lawsuit Little et al v. Llano County et al.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/06/13/llano-county-approves-allocating-150000-to-fight-library-lawsuit/>

Llano County hires attorney in library civil suit

Defendants in the Llano County Library System civil suit now have an official lawyer to represent them. Jonathan F. Mitchell of Mitchell Law LLC in Austin filed an Appearance of Counsel for Case No. 1:22-cv-0424-RP on June 15.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/06/21/llano-county-hires-abortion-law-attorney-in-library-civil-suit/>

Llano County library civil suit court hearing postponed

A hearing on motions filed in a civil lawsuit against Llano County officials that was set for Thursday, July 7, has been postponed by agreement of both sides in the case, attorneys for the plaintiffs confirmed.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/07/06/llano-county-library-civil-suit-court-hearing-postponed/>

Llano County library lawsuit schedule stretches over a year

Court procedures could take up to or more than a year in the case of a civil lawsuit filed against Llano County regarding actions taken in its library system. On July 18, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division, issued an agreed scheduling order for Little et al v. Llano County et al.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/07/19/llano-county-library-lawsuit-schedule-stretches-over-a-year/>

Llano County closes libraries on Saturdays, considers trade for JLK center

Beginning Aug. 6, libraries in Llano and Kingsland no longer will be open on Saturdays. The Llano County Commissioners Court made the decision during its regular meeting Monday, July 25. Commissioners also considered a proposal to trade county-owned parkland within the city of Llano for the John L. Kuykendall Event Center and Arena, which is owned by the city.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/07/25/llano-county-closes-libraries-on-saturdays-considers-trade-for-event-center/>

Texas AG pulls out of Llano County library lawsuit; jury trial set

It was a busy week in a civil suit brought against the Llano County Library System for actions that plaintiffs have called censorship. The week began with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton withdrawing as intervenor-defendant on Monday, Aug. 1.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/08/05/texas-ag-pulls-out-of-llano-county-library-lawsuit-jury-trial-set/>

Llano County library suit hearing canceled; disclosure dispute settled

An Aug. 10 court hearing in the ongoing Llano County library system civil suit was canceled after the plaintiffs and defendants reached an agreement on disputed discovery matters.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/08/12/llano-county-library-suit-hearing-canceled-disclosure-dispute-settled/>

Residents oppose Llano County Library System budget cuts

Concerned residents spoke out against a \$152,466 reduction in the Llano County Library System's proposed fiscal year 2022-23 budget at a budget hearing of the Llano County Commissioners Court on Monday, Aug. 22. The hearing was held after the county commissioners' regular meeting.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/08/23/residents-oppose-llano-county-library-system-budget-cuts/>

Preliminary injunction hearing set in Llano County library lawsuit

A motion for a preliminary injunction that could return banned books to the shelves at Llano County libraries is Friday, Oct. 28, and Monday, Oct. 31, in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division, with Judge Robert Pitman presiding. The dates were set during a conference call Tuesday, Aug. 30, between lawyers for both sides and Judge Pitman.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/08/31/preliminary-injunction-hearing-set-in-llano-county-library-lawsuit/>

Llano County Library could go to city in exchange for event center

A proposed trade between the city of Llano and Llano County for the John L. Kuykendall Event Center and Arena could include the Llano County Library. The Llano City Council will discuss the matter during its regular meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6, at City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/09/06/llano-county-library-could-go-to-city-in-exchange-for-event-center/>

Llano Library building as new City Hall? It's up for discussion

The Llano County Library building would make a good City Hall or government office if the city of Llano received it in a trade with the county for the John L. Kuykendall Event Center and Arena, said several council members at a meeting Tuesday, Sept. 6. No decisions were made at the meeting.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/09/07/llano-library-building-as-new-city-hall-its-up-for-discussion/>

Llano head librarian resigns due to 'lack of response' over grievances

Llano Head Librarian Martina Castelan resigned her position as of Sept. 27 but was asked to pack up her personal belongings and leave at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19. Her resignation leaves only a part-time, 28-hour-a week person to run the facility.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/09/19/llano-head-librarian-resigns-due-to-lack-of-response-over-grievances/>

UPDATE: Llano library pulled from trade

UPDATE AS OF 2:30 P.M. SEPT. 14: The Llano County Library building has been pulled from trade negotiations between the county and the city of Llano for the John L. Kuykendall Event Center, DailyTrib.com has learned. The story will be updated as details are learned.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/09/14/llano-county-responds-to-backlash-over-library-trade-discussions/>

Llano County Library removed from event center trade negotiations

The Llano County Library was pulled from trade negotiations between the county and the city of Llano for the John L. Kuykendall Event Center. The Sept. 14 news comes after the Llano City Council discussed the library's inclusion in a possible trade at its regular meeting Sept. 6, sparking public concern for the potential closure of the library.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/09/15/llano-county-library-removed-from-event-center-trade-negotiations/>

Library lawsuit awaits judge's decision on preliminary injunction

Dates set for injunction briefs in Llano County library lawsuit

A schedule for both the plaintiffs and the defendants in the Llano County Library System lawsuit to submit post-hearing briefings was set by U.S. District Court Judge Robert Pitman on Monday, Nov. 14.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/11/15/dates-set-for-injunction-briefs-in-llano-county-library-lawsuit/>

First post-hearing briefings in Llano County Library suit due Dec. 9

A U.S. district judge on Dec. 1 extended the deadlines for post-hearing briefings in a civil lawsuit involving the Llano County Library System.

Judge Robert Pitman ruled that briefings in Little et. al. vs Llano County et. al. are due on or before Friday, Dec. 9, from the plaintiffs and a response from the defendants on or before Dec. 30. The plaintiffs may reply one last time on or before Jan. 6, 2023.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/12/07/first-post-hearing-briefings-in-llano-county-library-suit-due-dec-9/>

Library lawsuit defendants withholding documents, plaintiffs claim

The plaintiffs in a civil lawsuit involving the Llano County Library System are asking a district court judge to compel the defendants to produce documents they have been withholding for the past six months despite repeated assurances they were complying with all discovery requests.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2022/12/21/library-lawsuit-defendants-withholding-documents-plaintiffs-claim/>

Defendants' brief says plaintiffs have no standing in library lawsuit

A brief filed Monday, Jan. 9, by the defendants in the Little et. al. vs. Llano County et. al. civil lawsuit claims plaintiffs have no standing in the suit, which accuses the county of violating constitutional rights after controversial books were removed from its library system.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/01/10/defendants-brief-says-plaintiffs-have-no-standing-in-library-lawsuit/>

Llano County library injunction granted; appeal filed

The Llano County Library System must return controversial books it removed from circulation in 2022 to library shelves and the system's digital catalog within 24 hours of a judge's order, which came down Thursday, March 30. The library system is also enjoined from removing any books from the catalog for any reason before the case is settled, either out of court or in a jury trial set for Oct. 24, ordered U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/03/31/llano-library/>

Banned books back in circulation in Llano

Twelve books were returned to the shelves and the digital catalog at the Llano County Library by 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 31, as ordered in a preliminary injunction by U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.

Only four were remaining as of Monday morning, April 3. Head librarian Amber Milum, a defendant in the case of Green et. al. v. Llano County et. al. said that the other eight were checked out almost immediately.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/04/03/banned-books-back-in-circulation-in-llano/>

Lawsuit to go on despite library decision, attorney says

Closing the three libraries in the Llano County Library System will not affect the Little v. Llano County lawsuit, which will move forward, according to an attorney for the plaintiffs. Also, Llano County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Don Moss and Library Advisory Board Vice-chairman Bonnie Wallace still will have to appear before the court as ordered by a U.S. District judge on April 27 or face possible sanctions.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/04/12/lawsuit-will-go-on-even-if-llano-county-libraries-close-attorney-says/>

Llano libraries remain open — for now

Llano County's three libraries will remain open for now and county commissioners will continue to fight a civil lawsuit they say has so far cost more than \$100,000 and 250 cumulative hours of labor by county employees. The more the lawsuit costs the county, the more likely the libraries will have to be closed, according to a statement by Llano County Judge Ron Cunningham.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/04/14/llano-libraries-remain-open-for-now/>

Texas Library Association honors plaintiffs in Llano library lawsuit

The [Texas Library Association](#) bestowed its Sam G. Whitten Intellectual Freedom Award upon the seven plaintiffs in the [Little vs. Llano County civil lawsuit](#) during its annual conference in Austin on April 22.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/04/25/texas-library-association-honors-plaintiffs-in-llano-library-lawsuit/>

Llano County Library defendants ordered to sit for second depositions

Three defendants in the Llano County Library lawsuit appeared before a U.S. District Court judge in Austin on Thursday, April 27, where they were ordered to appear at second depositions when scheduled. Llano County Head Librarian Amber Milum, Llano County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Don Moss, and Llano County Library Advisory Board Vice Chairman Bonnie Wallace were called before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Lane to explain why they did not show up for scheduled depositions in March.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/04/27/llano-county-library-defendants-ordered-to-sit-for-second-depositions/>

Llano library lawsuit stayed while before court of appeals

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a temporary administrative stay of all district court proceedings, including any pending discovery, on Tuesday, May 16, in the Llano County Library System civil lawsuit. The court will hear arguments in Little et al. v. Llano County et al. on June 7 in New Orleans, where the appeals court presides.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/05/19/llano-library-lawsuit-stayed-while-before-court-of-appeals/>

Major publishing houses support plaintiffs in Llano library suit appeal

The [Association of American Publishers](#), seven major publishing houses, and three library-related associations added their official support for plaintiffs in a civil lawsuit against Llano County officials related to the removal of books from the county's library system.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/06/05/major-publishing-houses-support-plaintiffs-in-llano-library-suit-appeal/>

Waiting begins for appeals ruling in Llano County Library lawsuit

Three judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit questioned attorneys from both sides in the Leila Green Little et al. v. Llano County et al. library civil lawsuit in New Orleans on Wednesday, June 7.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/06/08/waiting-begins-for-appeals-ruling-in-llano-library-lawsuit/>

How will big donation to Llano Library be spent?

The Llano County Commissioners Court accepted a donation of \$39,400 from the Friends of the Llano Library on Monday, June 12, amid questions about how the money will be used.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/06/14/how-will-big-donation-to-llano-library-be-spent/>

Library suit appeal could push back trial

An Oct. 16 trial date in the Llano County Library lawsuit could be pushed back as both sides await a ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2023/07/11/library-suit-appeal-could-push-back-trial/>

Appeals court upholds most of Llano County library suit injunction

The U.S. court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has upheld most of a district court's preliminary injunction in the ongoing Llano County Library lawsuit. The ruling was issued on Thursday, June 6.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2024/06/07/appeals-court-upholds-most-of-llano-county-library-suit-injunction/>

Judge hits pause on library suit

The Llano county Library lawsuit is back on hold. An unnamed judge in the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans requested "the issuance of the mandate" be withheld until further review.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2024/06/11/judge-hits-pause-on-library-suit/>

Texas AG supports defendants in Llano County library lawsuit

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton joined 16 other state attorneys general to support rehearing an appeal in the Llano county library lawsuit case before the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2024/07/03/texas-ag-supports-defendants-in-llano-county-library-lawsuit/>

Full appeals court to hear Llano County Library Suit in September

A Llano county library lawsuit regarding removed books will be reheard before the full U.S Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans around Sept. 23. A three-judge panel's June 6 ruling in support of a preliminary injunction issued by a lower court has been vacated.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2024/07/08/full-appeals-court-to-hear-llano-county-library-suit-in-september/>

Stephen King, James Patterson show support for plaintiffs in library lawsuit

Bestselling authors Stephen King and James Patterson joined supporters of the plaintiffs in the two-year-long dispute over banned books prepare to give oral arguments before the entire U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2024/09/11/stephen-king-james-patterson-show-support-for-plaintiffs-in-library-lawsuit/>

Full appeals court hears library case

The Llano County library lawsuit had another day in court on Tuesday, Sept. 24. The full U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans heard arguments from both sides in Leila Green Little et al. v. Llano County et al. Justices will decide whether to uphold a preliminary injunction from a district court judge that returned 17 banned books to the Llano County Library System.

<https://www.dailytrib.com/2024/09/25/full-appeals-court-hears-library-case/>