



The annual Fourth of July Fireworks Show will be July 3 on Calhoun Rd. Photo by James Sweet

\$62 Million Dollars In Funding For Courthouses

Funding for Round V of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program is included in the appropriations bill passed in the recent legislative session.

The 80th Texas Legislature included \$62 million in bond funding for the Texas Historical Commission's nationally recognized Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.

Funding will be made available after a November bond election subject to approval by voters.

The much anticipated Round V funding will permit additional Texas counties to participate in the highly successful program that restores the grandeur and architectural integrity of these

historic landmarks, while also upgrading their operational systems to meet modern requirements, making them both beautiful and functional.

Since its inception in 1999, the program has assisted in the full restoration of 35 county courthouses with an additional 29 projects under construction or having finished a phase of work toward complete restoration.

Established as a unique partnership, the state has contributed \$145 million and county governments have matched more than \$62 million to restore these Texas icons.

"The revitalization of these architectural treasures benefits both local and state economies,"

said THC Executive Director Larry Oaks.

"The courthouse restoration activity has resulted in reinvigorated downtowns and an increase in construction and other related business.

"These communities become desirable destinations for heritage tourists.

"We are grateful to the Texas Legislature for their support of this important economic development program."

A timeline with specific dates for submission of applications, deadlines for construction plans and specifications as well as new master plans from counties not previously participating in the program will be posted in late July

on the THC website at www.thc.state.tx.us.

The final timeline will be established by THC commissioners at its quarterly meeting in July.

The THC expects to begin accepting applications this fall.

Restored courthouses throughout the state will be assured of maintaining their renewed appearance through the Texas Courthouse Stewardship Program which provides training workshops, site visits and consultations with THC architects and other professionals.

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County Starts Budget Process

Continued from front page departments, there was general agreement to leave the funding for the larger departments of Eagle Lake, Weimar and Columbus at \$11,000 a year.

The smaller departments were tentatively earmarked for \$5,000 each.

Commissioners also discussed adopting in the future a mutual aid agreement with each of the departments.

An incident that occurred last Thursday, June 21, prompted some discussion by commissioners about the need for such an agreement.

After the meeting, County Judge Al Jamison said the incident involved a request by an EMS unit for assistance from the Columbus Fire Department for a medical emergency in which cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was being performed on a man.

Jamison said the dispatcher was told by a Columbus Fire Department official that the Columbus Fire Department was not a first-responder for medical emergencies and no fire unit was

sent to the scene to help.

"I'm disappointed the department did not respond," Commissioner Tommy Hahn said.

"An agreement takes personalities out of it," Commissioner Darrell Gertson said of a mutual aid agreement.

Contacted after the meeting, Columbus Fire Chief Bob Walla called the incident "unfortunate" and said it stemmed from miscommunication.

He said the EMS unit did not specifically ask for the fire department to respond, but just said that assistance was needed.

He said the dispatcher, who he said understood was new to the county, apparently took it on herself to call the fire department.

However, he said his department is not trained as first responders for medical emergencies.

"We do help out in lifting and moving people," he said, but added it was never clear what assistance was needed, other than being told that "CPR was in progress."

"It was a miscommunication,"

he said.

During their budget session, commissioners also discussed the budget for Emergency Medical Service.

Kana said they tentatively reduced a \$100,000 request for the county's portion of a joint police-EMS building in Weimar to \$50,000.

They also reduced a request to replace two ambulances for \$184,000 to one ambulance for \$92,000.

It was agreed, Kana said, to hear from the sheriff, the jail and extension agent on July 9.

The sheriff's department is seeking \$83,000 in additional funding, she said, including an additional clerk, rifles and bullet proof vests.

The extension service is seeking \$7,500 for a demonstration project on harvesting rain water.

She said that commissioners would also discuss salaries at a later time. She estimated that a three percent pay increase for all county employees would cost about \$104,000.

Water

Continued from front page pumping under 25,000 gallons a day.

—Term limits of two consecutive four-year terms for directors.

—A maximum tax rate of three cents per \$100 valuation.

—A provision that a petition could be circulated to call an election on dissolving the district after Jan. 1, 2016.

The legislation also exempts wells that were completed before the regulations come into effect from spacing requirements.

Try A Jamaican Jerk Burger

When it comes to grilling, nearly everyone who has ever grabbed a spatula and put on an apron has their own unique approach. For many, part of the joy of grilling is experimenting with new flavors for old favorites such as steak, burgers and chicken. No two recipes ever seem to be the same.

For those looking to expand their own personal horizons when it comes to experimenting on the grill, Helen Willinsky offers a host of recipes in "Jerk From Jamaica: Barbecue Caribbean Style" (Ten Speed Press). A native of Jamaica, Willinsky put together a list of recipes that highlight the fiery and spicy style of Jamaican cooking. Grilling aficionados are sure to love the following recipe for "Caribbean Burgers."

- CARIBBEAN BURGERS**
Serves 4
Honey Ginger Dipping Sauce
1 8-ounce can sweetened tamarind nectar
1 tablespoon honey
2 to 3 inches fresh ginger, peeled and grated
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon jerk seasoning
1 teaspoon corn starch
Caribbean Burgers
11/2 pounds lean ground beef, chuck, or turkey
4 teaspoons jerk seasoning
2 tablespoons catsup
2 tablespoons honey ginger dipping sauce
2 tablespoons vegetable oil



- 4 hamburger buns
4 slices cheddar cheese
4 slices cored fresh pineapple

To make the Honey Ginger Dipping Sauce:

In a small saucepan, combine the tamarind nectar and honey. Bring to a boil and cook until reduced by one-third. Stir in the ginger, soy sauce, and dry jerk seasoning. Mix the cornstarch with the water to form a paste, then stir into the tamarind mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, until the sauce thickens, 1 to 2 minutes. Serve hot or at room temperature. To store, refrigerate in a tightly sealed glass jar. Allow to come to room temperature for best flavor.

To make the Caribbean Burg-

ers: Light a medium fire in a charcoal grill, preheat a gas grill to 350 F, or heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season the beef with the dry jerk seasoning and mix well. Form into four patties.

In a small bowl, combine the catsup and dipping sauce. Oil the grill grids or heat the oil in the pan over medium-high heat. Add the patties to the grill or the pan and cook until browned, about 3 minutes on each side. If you are using a grill, grill the pineapple slices for about 1 minute per side. Lightly toast the buns.

To serve, place the meat patties on the buns and top each with 1 slice of cheese and 1 slice of pineapple. Dress with the catsup mixture and serve at once.

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