

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The City of Lexington is considering applying for rehabilitation funds from the Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) HOME Investment Partnerships Program- Homeowner Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Program. The State of Mississippi has allocated approximately \$3 million that will be made available to cities, and counties, on a competitive basis to undertake homeowner rehabilitation /reconstruction activities.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of affordable housing for low and very-low-income persons. The City of Lexington proposes to apply for grant funds through the (MHC) HOME Rehabilitation Grant Program. More specific details regarding eligible activities, program requirements, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at the City of Lexington City Hall located at 112 Spring Street, Lexington, Mississippi on Thursday August 1, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application. The location for the hearing is a handicapped accessible facility. All comments are welcome and must be submitted in writing. If a translator is needed for non-english speaking persons, please contact John Wiggers at (662)283-2675 at least 5 days prior to the meeting in an effort to accommodate this request

The City of Lexington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs or activities.

PUBLIC NOTICE

“TO THE PUBLIC AND TO THE TAXPAYERS
OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:

“You are hereby notified that the real and personal property assessment rolls of the above named County for the year 2019 have been equalized according to law, and that said rolls are ready for inspection and examination, and that any objections to said rolls, or any assessment therein contained, shall be made in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of said County on or before the 19th day of August, 2019, at his office in the Courthouse of said County, and that all assessments to which no objection is then and there made will be finally approved by said Board of Supervisors, and that all assessments to which objection is made, and which may be corrected and properly determined by this Board, will be made final by this Board of Supervisors, and that said rolls and the assessments contained therein will be approved by this Board of Supervisors; and that,

“1. This Board will be in session for the purpose of hearing objections to the said assessments which may be filed at the Courthouse in the City of Lexington, said County and State, on the 19th day of August, 2019, and,

“2. This Board of Supervisors will remain in session from day to day until all objections, lawfully filed, shall have been disposed of and all proper corrections made in the said rolls.

“Witness the signature and seal of the said Board of Supervisors this the 1st day of July, 2019, and

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HOLMES COUNTY

By /s/ James Young
President

By /s/ Henry Lockett
Chancery Clerk

Ordered and Adjudged this 1st day of July, 2019.

/s/ James Young

NOTE: Said rolls are available for inspection in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room. Assistance in examining the rolls is available from personnel of the County Appraisal Office in the Courthouse. Questions regarding assessments may also be made by telephone to said Office, 662.834.3737; if no answer, call the Assessor’s Office, 662.834.2865. Blank forms for use in filing objections may be obtained from the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room.

Treasures from site of John the Baptist’s martyrdom brought to new light through Mississippi State’s Cobb Institute of Archaeology

MSU

When Mississippi State’s founding director of the Cobb Institute of Archaeology first saw the ancient site of Machaerus—the place in modern-day Jordan near the Dead Sea where John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded by Herod Antipas—he wanted to share its beauty and mystery with others. Some of the palace’s treasures uncovered by the archaeologist only now are being rediscovered with the help of passionate scholars and the late professor’s family.

E. Jerry Vardaman was the first to lead an excavation of the site in 1968 when he was affiliated with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, before joining Mississippi State in 1972 as a professor of religion and the Cobb Institute’s first director.

Vardaman’s excavation notes and artifacts from the historic, biblical location have been dormant since his 1993 retirement, spending decades in storage. James

W. “Jimmy” Hardin, Cobb Institute interim director and associate professor in the university’s Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, found 13 boxes of these artifacts.

“Nobody realized that so much of Jerry’s Machaerus collection was here,” said Hardin, adding that the resources can provide additional scholarly insight about the ancient Jewish and Roman cultures which dwelled there.

Christopher A. Rollston, a George Washington University professor and one of the world’s leading experts on ancient Semitic languages and scripts, recently visited the Cobb Institute at Hardin’s request to see, firsthand, what has been uncovered at the land-grant institution. Also present were Alfalene Vardaman Morse, Vardaman’s 91-year-old widow, and Marylinda Govaars, an independent scholar from Burnet, Texas, who has pursued and pored over Vardaman’s collection at MSU and in Morse’s home, where she found 19 ostraca, fragments of ancient pottery with inscriptions in languages from long ago, among other artifacts.

An epigrapher, Rollston is taking temporary possession of the ostraca—which may be among Vardaman’s most significant findings—to analyze and translate them. He also is arranging high quality spectral photography of each piece, which he expects contain primarily personal names inscribed in the time period after John the Baptist’s death.

Commercially-caught wild American shrimp from Gulf of Mexico remain safe to eat

American Shrimp Processors Association

For the commercial wild-caught shrimp industry in the Gulf of Mexico, it’s business as usual. In spite of reports coming out of the Gulf of Mexico about a freshwater influx due to flooding in the Midwest, along with some resulting, close-to-shore algae blooms, commercial shrimp processors are reporting that this year, though volumes are lower, shrimp quality and size are good as ever. “The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) is continuing to test water and fish samples to ensure seafood safety in Mississippi waters,” said MDMR Executive Director Joe Spraggins. “MDMR is advising fishermen to avoid catching seafood in waters where algae is present.

Thus far, the water samples tested by MDMR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have not shown toxin levels high enough to warrant concern for consumption of local seafood.

tist’s death.

“Anytime you have inscriptions from a really important biblical site, they will provide information that is important to understanding the New Testament, the New Testament world and the world of Second Temple Judaism,” Rollston said, explaining that Machaerus is significant for both Judaism and Christianity.

He continued that the site of John the Baptist’s imprisonment and martyrdom is important for many reasons, as the historic figure represents “an intersection” of faiths and cultures.

“John the Baptist was a Jewish man who is connected with the origins of Christianity and featured prominently in the Quran, so he’s this bridge figure,” Rollston said.

Hardin explained that the site where John the Baptist was martyred was an isolated palace built by Herod the Great, father of subsequent leader Herod Antipas. Machaerus was among several such structures erected at strategic locations throughout the kingdom to provide border protection and refuge. It stood for less than a century before being destroyed by the Roman army. Archaeologist Győző Vörös has directed, in recent years, the site’s excavation in conjunction with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, documenting it extensively in three volumes.

In addition to the ostraca, the Vardaman collection includes first-century artifacts from the period of the first

Jewish revolt against the Romans, around A.D. 70, with items such as pottery, colored plaster, glass, marble, and ballista—large circular rocks used as weapons—among others.

“There are things that attest to the high-end nature of the site,” Hardin said. “These are items that you would associate with the best Roman cities of that time.”

Morse, who remarried 12 years ago after Vardaman died in 2000, marvels at the newfound interest in her late husband’s discoveries. Calling him a “multi-gifted person,” Morse explained that after Vardaman’s initial travel to Machaerus, he insisted on bringing her and their two daughters on subsequent trips to the site.

Hardin, whose own archaeological focus is on Old Testament times known as the Bronze and Iron Ages within the same geographical area, said it is not uncommon for artifacts to undergo a long process—even decades—from field excavation through laboratory analysis to the scholarly publication process. However, when Vardaman excavated Machaerus, it was before current methodologies and best practices were established, though he took copious notes. The work to pair his field notes and dairies with the corresponding artifacts to properly document his collection is “like an epic jigsaw puzzle,” Hardin said.

If not for the dedication of Govaars, he continued, some precious treasures

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mental conditions optimum for their growth.”

Restaurants and grocery chains around the country purchase the vast majority of their U.S. wild-caught shrimp from shrimp processors or their distributors. Mississippi processors are a value-added industry for the state of Mississippi.

While Mississippi waters only produce about 6 million pounds annually, these processors produce about 25-30 million pounds of shrimp. That 19- to 24-million pound difference comes from other states.

“We are very proud of the fact that Mississippi has become a value-added state when it comes to shrimp processing,” said Dr. Veal. “But that also means that while shrimp in Mississippi waters are not commercially-caught inside the algae bloom, there’s a good chance that shrimp labeled as processed in Mississippi weren’t even caught there.”

More information on the efforts of ASPA and its members can be accessed via www.americanshrimp.com.