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Movie reviews Place your bets on 'Maverick'

#### **By Jennifer Gressett**

THE BATTALION

"Maverick" Starring Mel Gibson, Jodie Foster and James Garner Directed by Richard Donner

Playing at Hollywood U.S.A.

With the back-to-back releases of "Tombstone," "Bad Girls," "The Cowboy Way," and "Wyatt Earp," summer film audiences may soon grow western-weary. It's a good thing that the first one out of summer's gate has a gambling twist to it.

Mel Gibson, Jodie Foster and James Garner are the stars of "Maverick," a western comedy based on Garner's TV series (1957 – 1962) about a gambler, Brett Maverick. Although Gibson was born only a year after the series began, he takes over the film role of Maverick with ease

Set deep in the pioneer trails between the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon, the opening scene permits the first glimpse of Gibson's character. And oooh, even with sideburns and a cowboy hat - on top of a mule, no less Gibson is a hunk.

As the gambling Maverick, his character is on a mission. And that is to come up with the \$3,000 he needs to enter "the big game," a high stakes poker match taking place on a Mississippi riverboat. It is along the way that he runs into Annabelle Bransford (Foster), yet another gambler trying to make it to the big game. And from the time they meet, they create a spark that will keep audiences rolling out of their seats.

Premiere magazine says Maverick "has given Gibson a rich vein to work, combining dry wit, physical bravado, and frequent self-deprecation."

But it is Foster who shines through in this movie, proving to audiences she is, indeed, a diverse actress. After her previous roles in "The Accused" "Silence of the Lambs," and "Little Man Tate," this role as a mischievous

### Local vineyard grows in tradition

#### **By Larry Whitfill** THE BATTALION

Aggielife

If a little adventure without a lot of travel appeals to your summer budget, Messina Hof Wine Cellar may be your an-

east bypass down Old Reliance Road, Messina Hof offers many activities and is filled with a rich, wine-making history.

ery was created in 1977 when Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo planted their first experimental

"The agriculturists at A&M and other planters in the area never believed that a wine vineyard could grow in this area of Texas," Tumulty said. "Paul and Merrill proved them wrong.

reached 85,000 gallons, he said. However, not all the grapes

over the state," he said. "We

grow various grapes in the ar eas of Texas that are best suit ed for that particular type of

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grape." Wine making is a long standing tradition in the Bonarrigo family, Tumulty said.

"The oldest son in each gen eration is named Paul, and he becomes the wine maker for that generation," he said.

The respective ancestral homes of the Paul and Merri - Messina, Sicily and Hof, Germany — gave the winery name, Tumulty said.

Harvesting of Messina Hofs grapes is also a very tradition tablish Hov Debbie Hale, designer fast-pa events sales manager, said

and in summer harvest is the bigges event of Messina Hof's year. "Hundreds of people usual centere come out, and in past years we've had to turn people away moven

ter the Hale said. Jewish cused, beat t

It was common practice in Sicily to have friends of the vintner come to the vineyard and help harvest the grapes, she said.

Please see Winery/Page

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**By Timm Doolen** Special to THE BATTALION

practice.

"The Flintstones" Starring John Goodman, Rick Moranis and Rosie 0Dw nell

Directed by Brian Levant Rated PG

Playing at Schulman VI and Post Oak III

About halfway through "The Flintstones," the women and children on Bedrock's main street beging fleeing in terror. A giant, flying creature casts a share owners the above of the state of ow over the shops and screaming citizens, and the leaves a gigantic bird dropping on a Stone-Age autom bile.

Unfortunately this scene is a perfect metaphor many ways for the most hyped film of the summer. N only are these unfunny jokes peppered throughout film, but after watching it you feel like the car — ab stander enduring something surprisingly unpleasant. In the movie version of the '60s cartoon, the "even

thing-made-out-of-stone-doesn't-it-look-so-cool" sets as meticulously recreated for the big screen, but the pe sonality, warmth and humor of the animated chars ters are missing.

The plot is so transparent it's almost not worth plaining - Fred becomes an executive and a cowork tries to use Fred's lack of intelligence to embezzle on pany funds.



# a visit to Messina Ho



**Top photo:** Rows of grape vines adorn the hilly landscape at the Messina Hof winery.

**Bottom photo:** A stone statue was selected for the artwork to be placed on next year's bottles of Messina Hof wine.

- Photos by John Williams

## swer for a weekend getaway. Located three miles off the

Matt Tumulty, a tour guide for Messina Hof, said the winvines.

In 1983, the little vineyard

produced 13,000 gallons of wine and in 1993, production

come from the Bryan vineyard, Tumulty said. "We have small areas all

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All the actors, especially John Goodman as Fred, a perfectly suited to their roles, but the weak script le the actors down. With more than 30 writers and se al rejected scripts during the nine years it took to bring

Please see Flintstones/Page · ADU

Orchestra since 1963 and has performed from Europe to South

The A&M festival is funded in part through a grant by Bra-

Pat Cornelison, executive director of the medical center, say the event has improved every year since its beginning, and has been a worthwhile investment since the corporation began

"It's been probably one of the most noticeable things we've ever done," Cornelison said. "They do an excellent job, and we're very pleased with the quality - they seem to get better

"It's kind of neat having a chamber series come to town that

Rose remembers the very first performance, and the encour aging words that were given to him by then-Dean of Liberal

"He said, You know, if you get 50 people out, it will be a su

Every year the audiences grow and the festival improves, Rose said, citing this years' addition of the orchestral perfor-

Despite the expectations surrounding the orchestra, Rose said the festival nevertheless will center around chamber music, with the stage moved closer to the audience to create a

"(Chamber music) is designed more for a room than a conce hall, and two to nine players generally perform," Rose said. People think of chamber music as being more intimate - com-

Rose said after each Monday performance, the audience will have the opportunity to meet with the artists in Rudder Exhibit Hall, and tickets are on sale at the Rudder MSC Box Office.

"It's an exciting time," Tomatz said. "During the summer you get to meet artists from all over the world, and it's a very