

Arts & Entertainment

GALLERIES ■ THEATER ■ DANCE ■ DINING

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Hot tickets

■ Dream date
Forget about Joe Millionaire. You might win a date with five-time WWE Tag Team Champion Hardy and spend a night on



the town with the eligible superstar. Single woman dressed in their most creative valentine's get-up who are looking to land the WWE bachelorette must arrive at 6 p.m. at Hockeystown Cafe in The Second City, next to the Fox Theatre, to compete (in WWE trivia and romantic interludes) for Hardy's heart. Hardy and company will choose one woman to be his valentine and to paint the town red. Hardy will return to Detroit's Joe Louis Arena for WWE Ruthless Aggression at 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16. Tickets (\$15, \$25, \$30, a \$45) to WWE Ruthless Aggression are available through Ticketmaster. (248) 645-6666.

■ One weekend only
St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook presents *Held Mel*, a comic revue written in a series of short scenes and vignettes by Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Jules Feiffer. Shows are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 13-15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at St. Dunstan's Stage 2 venue, 400 Lone Pine, between Cranbrook and Lahar, Bloomfield Hills. The cast includes Lidia Fremau of Royal Oak, Sally Garrison of Bloomfield Hills, Keith Lepard of Franklin, Lee Stacey of Troy and Peggy Yazeljan of Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$1 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students. (248) 644-9527.

■ Christian rock
Pillar, a two-time Dove Award-winning band, performs as part of the "See Spot Rock Tour," at 7:30 p.m.



(doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Friday, Feb. 14, at Northridge Church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth. OC Superlones, Relient K, Sanctus Real and John Reuben are also performing. Tickets are \$19.50 in advance and \$23 on show day. (800) 585-3737 or (734) 414-7777.



Guests can horseback ride year-round at the resort.

Dude ranch doubles as year-round camp

BY SHARON DARGASY
STAFF WRITER

Make no mistake about it, the Double JJ ranch north of Muskegon is all resort - from its cozy cabins and upscale condominiums to its tubing hills, horseback riding trails and snowmobile course. But to owner Robert Lipsitz of Bloomfield Hills, the sprawling family playground - a 65-year-old former summer-only dude ranch - reminds him of camp.

"We're a very groupies place. Our dining rooms don't have tables for four. They're all sixes and eights. That's because it's a camp. It's really a camp for adults," Lipsitz said. "It's just fun. I went to Camp Tamarack (in Ortonville) for years. Then I became a dishwasher there and then I was a counselor there and a supervisor. My parents for years said, 'When are you going to get a real job?' I graduated from Michigan State with a degree in recreation and natural resources. I ended up here - a camp for adults."

"I just never left camp," Lipsitz and his wife, Joan, drive three hours from their Bloomfield Hills home to the resort every weekend in winter and stay there full time during summer.



Guests experience the romance of winter on an old-fashioned sleigh ride at the Double JJ Resort.

LONG HISTORY

The couple bought the property in 1988 after Lipsitz left his directorship at Camp Tamarack. He planned to turn the dude ranch, which opened in 1937, into a boot camp for troubled boys. He contracted with the state to open a facility, but when it restricted funding, continued to operate as a recreational facility.

"We're the fourth family to own it in seven years. It was an operating dude ranch - and had been since the '70s - for adults. From troubled youth to troubled adults - there really was no difference. The only difference was when you wanted to send them home, you didn't have to call their parents," he said, laughing.

"In the 1930s, it was called the Jack and Jill Ranch and

PLEASE SEE DOUBLE JJ, B2

DOUBLE JJ RESORT

- **What:** Year-round resort in Rothbury north of Muskegon
- **Winter fun:** Includes snowmobiling, horse-drawn sleigh rides, horseback riding, dog sled rides and instruction, snow tubing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and a weekend dinner theater. Barefoot in the Park runs through March 9.
- **Summer fun:** The summer ranch May-October offers a variety of events and activities - horseback riding, rodeo, water slides, talent shows, campfire sing-alongs, dances, golf, archery, rifle range, swimming hole, canoes, paddleboats, rowboats, shuffleboard.
- **Accommodations:** RV park, cabins (no TV or radios), loft hotel, condominiums and ranch bunkhouse. Teepee and wagons for summer use only
- **Winter specials:** Dinner theater package includes overnight stay, dinner and theater for two at \$109 per night. The Sweethearts Package starts at \$69 per night, runs Wednesday through Sunday and includes a loft hotel room and prime rib dinner. For \$139 per night, a couple can buy one night's lodging, dinner for two, a bottle of champagne and two commemorative glasses.
- **Reservations:** P.O. Box 94 Rothbury, MI 49425; (800) DOUBLE JJ or (231) 894-4444; www.doublejj.com



Contest opens doors for minority musicians

Aaron Dworkin is working toward a goal. He's hoping to attract people of all colors to the classical music stage and audience. It seems we share a dream. Although diversity in the classical music world has come a long way in the 12 1/2 years that I've been covering arts for the Observer & Eccentric, it's rare for me to write about an event with an African-American or minority theme outside of February. Don't get me wrong. I think it's great that more and more concerts are being scheduled during Black History Month. I'd just like to see them occur regularly throughout the year.

That's why Dworkin's Sphinx competition for young black and Latino string musicians is so important. In the six years since Dworkin founded Sphinx, he's seen a 25 percent increase in applicants, several of whom have gone on to top music schools including Juilliard in Manhattan. More qualified minority students means more qualified minority musicians performing with major orchestras.

EARLY YEARS

Dworkin grew up learning to play violin in Manhattan. He eventually moved to Hershey, Pa., and later to northern Michigan to attend Interlochen Arts Academy for

PLEASE SEE DWORKIN, B5

SPHINX SYMPHONY CONCERTS

Where: 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, (\$10). Finals concert 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19.
Where: Orchestra Hall, Detroit.
Tickets: \$10-\$36, call (313) 576-5111. For information on the Sphinx competition, call (313) 336-9808 or visit www.sphinxmusic.org.
Related event: Honors concert, noon Thursday, Feb. 13, Power Center, Ann Arbor. No charge.

Wannabe detective is clueless in 'P.I. Blues'

BY LANA WINI
STAFF WRITER

Imagine ... an independent film shot in metro Detroit that isn't dark or gritty. Quite the contrary, *P.I. Blues* is a refreshing romantic comedy.

The by-invitation-only premiere of the Michigan-made film is Tuesday, Feb. 18 at the Imagine Theatre in Novi. It opens to the public Friday, Feb. 21, and is expected to run several weeks.

John DeMarell, of Farmington Hills, plays the lead role of Lenny Fritz. He says *P.I. Blues*

PLEASE SEE P.I. BLUES, B2

LOCALLY MADE FLICK

What: *P.I. Blues*
Opens: Friday, Feb. 21
Where: Imagine Theatre, 44425 W. 12 Mile Road, Novi (west of Novi Road)
Call: (248) 319-3456 for show times
Web site: www.piblues.com



It's a classic story of good vs. evil but even the villains are likable characters in the locally-made comedy, *P.I. Blues*, that makes its debut in this month. *P.I. Blues* is a fun story of a clumsy detective wannabe who gets involved with the wrong woman in a missing person case gone wrong.

Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?



Makes no difference as long as you take time to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend some time with us.