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Cupid coming to town for speed dating event

By JILL SHERMAN, DAILY SUN

THE VILLAGES — He wanted to talk strictly sports on your first date. As a result, there won't be a second date. If only you had known beforehand he was nowhere near being "Mr. Right."

A novel approach to dating, speed dating, is a fun way for singles to determine their compatibility with others before going on an actual date. The chance to experience it is just around the corner — Cupid.com/PreDating has planned a speed dating event for July 17 at Palmer Legends Country Club.

"Anyone should try it because it's really low-pressure," said Marcia Wintter, Gainesville-Ocala region coordinator for Cupid.com/PreDating.

In this case, the speed dating event is designed for a more mature demographic than would be expected. Participants age 59-69 will meet at 6:45 p.m., while the age 46-59 crowd will meet at 8:15 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person. Preregistration is required.

Wintter said The Villages was chosen as a speed dating location because Cupid.com/PreDating had received a number of e-mails requesting such an event here.

Speed dating works this way: An individual meets with one person for 6 minutes at a table for two, and then moves on to talk with another individual for 6 minutes. The process continues until all potential couples have met.

"It's a great way to meet other singles," Wintter said.

The atmosphere is kept light and no personal information is given out during speed dating.

If you feel the chemistry is right between yourself and another person and you would like to get to know them better, check the "Yes" box on your provided speed dating scorecard. If not, check the "No" box.

As a speed dater, you will receive online the next day a list of the individuals who showed interested in you. The ball is then in your court.

"It's up to them to contact each other," Wintter said.

Speed dating has sparked many romances. Wintter said she knows of two marriages that have occurred in the Gainesville-Ocala region, courtesy of the events.

But speed dating doesn't have to lead to love.

"Even if it's not a romantic match," Wintter said, "you may make a great friend."



Customers sit at the bar in the Arnold Palmer restaurant, the site of the speed dating event to be held July 17. Jennifer Cecil / Daily Sun



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SP 500	1267.24	1.76 ▲
Russ 2000	708.90	-0.40 ▼
AMEX	1936.25	-8.19 ▼
NYSE	8176.34	21.29 ▲
30 YR BOND	51.70	-0.04 ▼

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