

Advertisement



eHarmony

Click here
for your personality profile.

News-Leader.com
Springfield, MO

Search past 7 days:

• Or visit our archive

LOCAL NEWS ENTERTAINMENT **LIFE** SPORTS BUSINESS OPINIONS NATION / WORLD TRAVEL OBITUARIES

Dating Destinations Dining Guide Food & Recipes Genealogy Health Homes Outdoors Religion Technology

ozarks Life

Published Friday, February 3, 2006

E-mail this story

☐ Comment on story

 Printer-friendly page

 Subscribe now

Cupid strikes

You have six minutes to dazzle, intrigue and captivate. Go!

Sound overwhelming? It doesn't have to be. Speed dating can be a great way to meet people if you adopt an attitude of possibility.

On Wednesday, single professionals between 26 and 52 can experience what Cupid.com ? host of the event broken into two sessions by age ? calls ?predating.?

?We like to call speed-dating parties predating, because it?s actually before your first date,? said Tinka Betz, Cupid.com coordinator for southwest Missouri.

The events will be at J. Parrino?s Pasta House and Bar on East Battlefield Street. After a brief mingling period, name tags go on, ladies sit and men rotate. A new conversation starts every six minutes.

Before talks start, consider your headline, advises Marijo Mueller, a Springfield-based life coach who has a master?s degree in counseling.

?Attitude is everything,? she said. ?Our attitude is kind of like our headline. It sort of follows us into a room. ...

?If the headline catches your attention, you might read the subhead. And if that catches your attention, you might read the story.?

Stay positive, Mueller says. Don?t try too hard, be interesting and have fun.

?That?s the headline you want to wear into the room.?



Speed dating offers singles chance to find valentine.

MORE ABOUT THIS STORY

Want to go?

What: Cupid.com's predating event

When: 6:20 p.m. Wednesday for singles ages 39 to 52; 8:30 p.m. Wednesday for singles ages 26 to 39

Where: J. Parrino's Pasta House and Bar, 1550 E. Battlefield St., Suite L, Springfield

Cost: \$35 if registered before Monday or \$40 (\$5 more to register by phone); register online at ozarks.cupid.com (and find future predating events); registration is required; participants receive a 30-day free Cupid.com membership

Special: Registrants can bring a friend (who must also register) for free, because Cupid.com wants to get into the "Guinness Book of World Records" by having the biggest speed-dating event held on the same day across the country

Information: 496-4124 or springfield@predating.com

Stuck for what to say? Go beyond the routine, Betz suggests. Instead of asking someone what he does for a living, ask what his best friend would say about him.

If that seems too personal, look for questions that indirectly reveal things, Mueller says. What's the best vacation you've ever taken? If you could go anywhere, what place would you pick? Who would you bring?

If you're still worried about tongue twisting, Betz provides cards with suggested questions.

Those came in handy a few times for Dana Kennedy, who has attended a Cupid.com event.

"It was very, very fun. ... I smiled the whole time," said Kennedy, who recently moved from Springfield to Arizona.

"My view of it before I did it and after I did it was a complete 180 — definitely in a more positive way."

In fact, Kennedy is signed up for another Cupid.com pre dating event in Arizona. As a transplant, it's a great way to meet people, she says.

"If you think about it, the person sitting across from you is as nervous as you."

That can be a good thing, Mueller says. Nerves keep us on our toes, sharpen our wit, pump adrenaline.

But remember: You have seven seconds to make a first impression, she says. So, yes, appearance matters.

"Here's what I hear a lot: 'I just want to be me. I'm not going to do anything special.' They go into that whole thing," Mueller said. "To me, a first impression should be your Sunday best. ... Wear something that makes you feel jazzed."

If you need to boost confidence, think of three things that make you a good catch, Mueller says.

"We don't want to show up bragging about it ... but you want to keep it in the back of your mind to keep your confidence up."

When in doubt, show those pearly whites, Betz says.

"Smile. People are more apt to be open to someone who smiles. ... People react to positive body language."

Dating is a mind-set, Mueller says.

Speed dating offers singles chance to find valentine.

TODAY'S COVERAGE

- **Mean kitty**
- **Got Valentine's blues? You're not alone**
- **Black History Museum calls St. Louis home**

MORE FROM THIS SECTION

- **A world of new tastes**
- **'Crash' surprise winner at SAG show**

Latest headlines by topic:

- **Online Dating**

Powered by **Topix.net**



DENTAL FRONT OFFICE

ASSEMBLY OPERATORS Positronic Industries

Benefit Package Available at 90

PRODUCTION MACHINE OPERATORS WANTED

Director of Development Global

All Top Jobs

About Top Jobs

“Go with an attitude of curiosity and interest and, you know, I’m available. Maybe I’ll meet Mr. Wonderful, and maybe I won’t. I’m going to have a good time tonight.”

During the evening, each person keeps track of the people they meet through score cards. If you like someone, mark “let’s talk again.” If not, circle “no, thanks.”

To find out who wants to talk again, you’ll log into your Cupid.com account. It’s then up to you to initiate contact, Betz says. Providing personal information, such as an e-mail address, is up to you.

At the very least, pre-dating can broaden your social network.

At the most, you find that someone special.

“Real relationships do happen,” Betz said. “If you’re open, if you don’t have any preconceived notions ... you will meet the right person.”

[Customer Service](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Work for the News-Leader](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

[USA Today](#) | [USA Weekend](#) | [Gannett](#) | [Gannett Foundation](#) | [NIE](#) | [Parent and Family](#)

[Partners: Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) | [Cars: cars.com](#) | [Apartments: apartments.com](#) | [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

© 2006 Springfield News-Leader. Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), updated June 7, 2005

