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Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Matchmaker sets stage for romance to spark

Woman plans dating events

By Sarah Bradshaw
Poughkeepsie Journal

Vicki Weed is in love with love.

"I'm a hopeless romantic," Weed said. "To see sparks fly when people fall in love is just amazing. I get a natural energy from it."

Weed, 34, runs Deja Vu Event Creation out of her home in Montgomery, Orange County. Besides 12 years of wedding planning experience, she recently added "matchmaker" to her resume. A month ago, Weed was hired by Cupid.com as a pre-dating event coordinator, aka Cupid.com's Hudson Valley matchmaker. It's a part-time position that helps her slow season as a wedding planner.

Cupid.com, headquartered in Poughkeepsie, is an online dating service for singles. In 2003, Cupid merged with PreDating.com, one of the largest speed-dating companies in the nation. Today, events are held in more than 100 cities. Weed holds events in Dutchess, Orange and Putnam counties.

Pre-dating, also known as "speed dating," is a formalized matchmaking process in which singles are paired for a few minutes in order to see if there is a connection. The pairs are rotated until everyone has had a chance to mingle.

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Vicki Weed, 34, browses Cupid.com's pre-dating Web site at home in Montgomery, Orange County, last week, with her cat, Daisy, on her lap. Weed is a pre-dating event coordinator for the Hudson Valley.

