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## **Wanted: A few nice men**

[Cheryl Wade](#) , Midland Daily News

BAY CITY – The owner of a Bay City restaurant wants to help men and women find romance, but she has one problem: Men don't seem interested.

Liliana Hintz, owner of Nino's Family Restaurant, 1705 Columbus Ave., Bay City, wants to host 8MinuteDating events through a worldwide website that promotes "speed dating." (See [8minutedating.com](http://8minutedating.com).)

Single men and women pay to attend the event, and each has a series of eight-minute appointments with a person of the opposite sex. Participants keep track of their meetings on cards, deciding if they want to meet a person again for a "real date," for friendship or for business. There's also a "mix and mingle period" when singles meet with whoever catches their eye.

"If you really like somebody, you will know within eight minutes," she said.

After the party, each person logs onto the website and rates the opposite-sex people with whom they've met. The more alike a single man's and single woman's ratings are, the better the chance they'll receive each other's phone numbers.

Hintz has had to cancel two recent events for lack of male participants. She had 11 women and three men for a Jan. 9 meeting and, a week later, she was three men short of having equal representation among the sexes.

Her next try, which would be her first-ever success, is scheduled for Monday. But, if more men don't sign up, six women in the 45-55 age category won't be able to take part.

Hintz said she thinks men will go online to seek dating partners but their egos are hurt if they have to admit to signing up for a dating event.

"Men are afraid to come out," she said.

Hintz got involved with 8MinuteDating last fall after women told her they wished they could find dating events in the area. She contacted the company, read a manual and took a test to represent it.

"We're not talking about making money on it," she said. "The company gets most of it."

Nino's, an Italian restaurant, is closed Mondays. But for the event, Hintz will provide free appetizers and a cash bar.

Hintz thinks Nino's is a romantic place because of the memories patrons make there. Her walls are decorated with bottles signed by patrons for special occasions.

"Many people have proposed in our restaurant in the last 25 years," since Nino's has existed, she said. "Many people have come back for anniversaries and celebrations."

For more information, telephone Hintz at (989) 892-0660 mornings or call the restaurant, (989) 893-0691 after 4 p.m.

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