

Unique Parties Cater to all Types of Tastes

By Kathleen Ganster

Let's party! Those words mean fun to most people, but planning a party can be overwhelming. A lot of decisions need to be made, such as what kind of party, where to have it, and what type of food to serve.

There are a wealth of sources to assist with parties. Kathy Grieser and Kim Congedo of **Events Made Easy** in McCandless do "whatever you don't want to do." "That can involve everything from sending out wedding invitations to overseeing the party at the actual event. We do everything from kids birthday parties to weddings," Grieser said.

Grieser and Congedo meet with potential clients and discuss ideas. "We pride ourselves in that most of the time, we don't say 'no.' We can figure out how to do something and work it out with our clients," Grieser said. Events Made Easy works with a staff that specializes in different types of parties and can handle events of any size. Once a client is presented with a proposal, the staff works from there to make the

event "just right," Grieser said. For more information, call (724) 933-3339 or www.eventsmadeeasy.biz.

Kaleidoscope Dolls in Wexford is the ideal place to have a party for doll lovers and collectors of all ages. A variety of parties are offered including doll and teddy bear themes, American Girl parties, doll making classes and a Mystery Dinner for adults. "The Madeline parties are popular for both boys and girls," said owner Debbie Mitchym. The party room at Kaleidoscope is painted with an "enchanted" theme, featuring a castle, fairies and unicorns. "The room is such a big hit with children," Mitchym said. "It really does allow for a magical type of party." For more information, call (724) 935-8688 or www.dollstop.com.

Food connoisseurs can incorporate their special events with learning how to cook! **Versatile Gourmet** in Penn Twp., Butler County, hosts bridal showers, children and adult birthday parties and corporate training programs. "For our bridal showers, a private chef hosts the shower with the menu chosen by the guests," said owner Teri Helfer. "The guests receive an instructional yet fun cooking class with recipes and are then served the food," she said. "After eating, the bride opens her gifts."

Shower favors are also available, such as a wooden spoon with a piece of chocolate on the lip of the spoon wrapped up and tied with the bride's colors. For more information, call (1-800) 946-4023 or www.versatilegourmet.com.

Rita Venturino, a cooking instructor in Richland with years of experience, also offers customized cooking classes, including special classes for showers or birthday parties. "Rita's Italian Table" allows small groups to have a unique learning experience while also celebrating a special day. For more information, call (724) 443-4425 or www.ritaventurino.com.

Need to work out some stress? How about a paintball party? **Three Rivers Paintball** in Cranberry features a variety of parties including corporate outings, birthday, bachelor and graduation parties, and youth group activities. Open year round, the facility offers safe fun for children of all ages. Owned by Debra Krischke, Three Rivers Paintball is the oldest paintball site in the area. For more information, call (724) 775-6232 or www.trpaintball.com.

Laser Storm in Ross features an array of fun activities for parties. In addition to offering hours of laser tag aerobic activity, Laser Storm has group outings and the "Fun Rock." The

(Continued on page 48)