



Love is in the air

A wedding proposal over Naples beach highlights New Year's Day for some in Naples

By JENNA BUZZACCO

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Alyssa Galvin couldn't have known what was coming Tuesday evening as she walked on to the tarmac in her candy cane-striped dress and yellow high heels.

The sky was gray and getting darker by the minute. They needed to get up in the air soon, said pilot Jon Fay, if everything was going to go as planned.

As the single engine, open cockpit plane teetered down the Naples Municipal Airport runway, 23-year-old Chris Magnus anxiously awaited take off. In just a few minutes, several hundred feet above ground, Magnus planned to ask Galvin, 23, to marry him.

"I wanted to start 2008 off right," Magnus said. "I had this whole thing planned out and I rehearsed it about a thousand times, but (the microphone was breaking up) so I just asked her: 'Will you marry me?'"

He asked just as the plane circled over a sign on Naples beach, just south of Naples Grande Resort, that had the words "say yes" written in bright red letters.

Galvin said yes, then panicked slightly as he put the ring on her finger.

"I said to him, 'Don't drop it,' " she said.

Galvin was in town visiting Magnus for the holidays. She currently lives in Boulder, Colo., and is planning to move to Naples.

"It feels weird (to be engaged)," Galvin said. "I was a little bit surprised, I didn't know it was going to be today."

Catherine Fay, co-owner of Naples Air, Inc., said this was the first time someone proposed in the plane.

But the WACO plane, built in 1988, has a history of weddings. One month after the plane was purchased, Catherine Fay said a couple asked to get married in it.

Fay told the couple that the plane was too small for a minister to fit in it, but said a notary could marry them. That meant her husband, Naples Air Inc. co-owner and WACO pilot Jon Fay, needed to get his notary license. He got it, but the couple decided against getting married in the plane.

But as Galvin and Magnus walked back to their terminal, Catherine Fay whispered to the couple that if they wanted to get married on the plane, she could arrange it as well.

Not everyone spent the day flying high, though.

Other Collier County residents and visitors had a more subdued end to the holiday season, spending New

Year's Day watching sports and seeing movies.

At the Regal Hollywood 20 movie theater in North Naples, some showings of "I Am Legend" and "Kite Runner" were sold out. Roselee Raymon, 56, a nutrition consultant vacationing from Concord, Mass., earlier Tuesday had watched the "Winter Classic" National Hockey League game played outdoors between the Buffalo Sabres and Pittsburgh Penguins.

"It's wonderful being in the nice weather, but there's no place like home," Raymon said.

Raymon planned to see "Kite Runner" with her husband and two friends.

Sergio Zuluaga, 38, from Naples who owns a traffic school, took his two daughters, Valentina, 8, and Susana, 4, to see "Alvin and the Chipmunks."

"We don't have anything else to do at this point," Sergio Zuluaga said.

Fortunately, both Valentina and Susana said they were excited to return to school after the long holiday break.

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Staff writer Liam Dillon contributed to this report.

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