



**Experience one monster of a dive coaster.  
205 feet up. 90° straight down. Zero floor.**

[CLICK HERE TO EXPERIENCE GRIFFON](#)

**Busch  
GARDENS  
EUROPE**

## Man makes high-flying marriage proposal

Christa Desrets

cdesrets@newsadvance.com

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Jeremy Dillinger soared a plane above Bedford County on Thursday afternoon with Allie Murray, his girlfriend of nearly two and a half years, and forever changed both of their lives.

As Murray chatted away, recounting a story from work, Dillinger pointed out the window to the hay field below.

Something was written down there, in giant white letters:

"Allie, will you marry me."

"My jaw dropped open," Murray recalled after the plane landed shortly thereafter. "And then I couldn't close it for like five minutes."

She at least had the composure to yell her answer.

"Yes!!"

Finding the perfect way to pop the question wasn't difficult, Dillinger said. At 23 years old, he just earned his pilot's license last year and knew he wanted to ask her from the air.

"I just always thought about when I proposed, doing it a really nice way," he said. "The hard part was figuring out how to actually make it work."

He finally decided on using a 400-foot roll of white butcher paper. At 3-feet wide, it would be large enough to see from the sky.

He and two friends spent about three hours sculpting 15-foot long letters that were held down with bricks. They had been given permission to use a field near Liberty High School, in Bedford.

Then, Dillinger just needed a reason to go flying.

Jo Donneberg, Murray's mother, had been wanting to go for a while. A perfect excuse.

The three flew out to Smith Mountain Lake, enjoying the clear, blue sky of a day worth celebrating. On the way back, they flew over the field with Dillinger's proposal.

"I knew something was coming but I didn't know (it would be) today," Murray said. "My mom cried - I was too excited to cry."

After gazing at the message for many seconds, she turned back to Dillinger, who fished in his pocket



Allie Murray shows off her engagement ring with fiance Jeremy Dillinger after landing on Thursday at Falwell Airport. (Staff photo by Christa Desrets)

and pulled out a ring. Three diamonds threw off glints of light in the sun.

At 20 years old, Murray wants to wait to graduate from Liberty University before tying the knot.

"She has a whole 'nother year of school left, so it won't be until after then, at least," Dillinger said.

That doesn't stop the two from radiating elation at the notion of being engaged.

As Dillinger put the plane down at Falwell Airport and rolled it into a parking position, he put his mouth up to the window to yell his excitement.

"She said yes!"