

## Wooden mariner goes missing

Thieves make off with ice cream shop's statue

By NATHAN PECK

### FEATURED ADVERTISER

**HAVE YOU SEEN ME?:** A wooden statue similar to the one above has been stolen from Captain Sundae in Holland Township.

Dennis R.J. Geppert

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He's 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighs 150 pounds and was last seen wearing yellow rain gear.

One additional fact: He's made of wood.

Thieves made off with the Captain Sundae statue outside of the Captain Sundae ice cream shop, 365 Douglas Ave., in Holland Township.

Owners Tom and Karen Van Dam said the theft occurred after Tom left at 11:15 p.m. Monday and before the cleaning staff began work at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

"When things like this happen, it is disappointing," Tom Van Dam said. "From a business standpoint, we try to have nice things around the business. We strive to keep things nice."

The Van Dams said they purchased the statue three years ago for \$750. The hand-carved piece was anchored to a steel plate, which was bolted into the ground. The thieves wrenched the statue loose and pulled it off.

"They really lifted and tugged at it -- it was attached to a 100-pound steel

plate," Tom Van Dam said.

Joan Rosiak of Holland Township was treating a group of Brownies to ice cream at Captain Sundae after Girl Scout Day Camp and did not notice the missing mariner initially.

"That's terrible. It's probably summertime pranks," Rosiak said. "We hope the captain reappears."

Holland resident Jes Bashaw, eating ice cream at the shop with her sister Krista, took a lighter view of the theft.

"It's pretty hilarious. I think it's pretty funny," Bashaw said.

The Van Dams own two other Captain Sundae ice cream shops in Zeeland and in Holland.

"We'd like it back," Karen Van Dam said. "Any time someone destroys your property, it doesn't make you real happy."

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