



Today may be the day on NBC

"Today" show plans to feature Windmill Island, tulips and Tommy Turtle Sundae

By LESA INGRAHAM

Today, the "Today" show is going to show Holland.

At least that's what the people in the Holland area that are supposed to be featured say.

A segment featuring Holland-area businesses was supposed to air on NBC's morning show Thursday, but was pushed back to today.

The segment is now supposed to air today between 9 and 10 a.m, Captain Sundae owner Karen Van Dam was told. "Today" producer Dee Dee Thomas was unavailable to confirm the switch on Thursday.

Van Dam, owner of the Douglas Avenue ice cream shop, was one of many Holland area residents sitting in front of televisions Thursday. Van Dam was hoping to see her trademark Tommy Turtle Sundae, along with Windmill Island and Veldheer's Tulip Gardens.

When the show ended without reference to Holland, Van Dam made a call to Thomas. Thomas produces "Getaways," a summer travel series on "Today" that features short-drive, family-oriented vacation trips.

"She (Thomas) said that late last night (Wednesday) the decision was made that it would be bumped back to Friday," Van Dam said.

A segment featuring Holland attractions was filmed on June 28. On July 9, the Holland Area Convention and Visitors Bureau received an e-mail from Thomas saying the show would air Thursday.

Also, Van Dam and her husband, Tom, sent the ingredients to make her sweets on the air. Van Dam said she still is hoping to see her confections on national TV.

"Since it was pushed back, the question comes up of whether they will have enough time to do what they wanted to do," Van Dam said.

Kurt Freeman, vice president of Veldheer's, said he wasn't sitting and waiting for the show to come on. Already at work, Freeman was having someone record the show so he could watch it later.

"I guess it's no big deal that it was pushed back. I wasn't going to watch it yet anyway," Freeman said.

He added that he is glad "Today" decided to air the segment earlier than the originally planned July 22 date.

"It gives us another week to get people out here and that's better for business," Freeman said.

Holland's isn't the only West Michigan area being spotlighted on "Today." Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids; Grand Haven's Musical Fountain and Michigan's Adventure amusement park in Muskegon also are expected to be featured.

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