



Sundae finds its way to 'Today'

NBC program will show wooden shoes, Captain Sundae in Thursday piece

By REGAN FOSTER

"Today" will come a week earlier than originally anticipated for Holland.

Production crews from the NBC-TV morning show rolled into town late last month to capture on film how locals work and play. The segment, part of the "Today" show's summer travel series "Getaways," was originally scheduled to run July 22 but will be aired between 9 a.m and 10 a.m. Thursday, instead.

The Tulip City segment will conclude with the show's hosts sampling some of the local wares, from wooden shoes to the ever-popular Tommy Turtle Sundae from the local ice-cream shop Captain Sundae.

"I was just blown away" when they asked for the sundae's ingredients, said Captain Sundae Owner Karen Van Dam. "It was like 'This is just too much. We were thrilled that you took footage and now you want to make it on camera.'"

"Getaways" producer Dee Dee Thomas contacted Van Dam on Friday and asked for the ingredients, instructions on how to make the decadent chocolate, caramel and pecan concoction, and a photo of the final product.

Tom Van Dam, Karen's husband and co-owner of the sundae shop, said his staff stuffed containers with the ingredients and shipped them overnight to New York City.

"We sent them all the ingredients ... pecans and caramel and fudge," Van Dam said. "They're going to eat it right on the show."

The NBC travel series focuses on travel destinations that are family- and odometer-friendly. Thomas said she had been advised to head north and to Mackinac Island, but decided to go west instead.

"I figured I had to find something that was not so obvious so I started looking at things that weren't the North," Thomas said. "Everyone thinks 'Go north' and if we have another option, why not go west?"

Through extensive research, the production team decided on the West Coast of Lake Michigan and at the heart of it all they found Holland, Thomas said.

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