

The Leader-Herald

Flame band may air Sept. 16? on 'Good Morning America'

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A crew from "Good Morning America" films Flame during the band's performance at Rail Fest in Gloversville on Aug. 8.

GLOVERSVILLE - An anticipated human-interest segment on Lexington Center's soft-rock group Flame filmed by ABC TV's "Good Morning America" in the city last month is tentatively scheduled to air Sept. 16, an ABC producer has informed the center. ABC-TV and "Good Morning America" Executive Producer Mary Pflum in New York City confirmed to the center via an e-mail Friday and to The Leader-Herald on Monday that the segment may air that Wednesday on the nationally televised program during the second hour of the 7-to-9 a.m. show.

"We can't wait to get Flame on the air," Pflum e-mailed Lexington Public Relations Director Tim Fiori.

Locally, the ABC network airs on WTEN, Channel 10, in Albany.

Pflum told The Leader-Herald Thursday that one of the "Good Morning America" anchors will serve as the reporter for the "human interest" piece, which was filmed in Gloversville last month. She said the piece is still being put together, and she's not sure of the length.

The Emmy-winning morning news program features anchors Diane Sawyer, Robin Roberts, Chris Cuomo and Sam Champion.

Flame is made up of Lexington residents who have disabilities.

A crew filmed a Flame rehearsal at the Lexington Day Treatment Center on East State Street and the group's performance at Railfest on Aug. 8.

Lexington Executive Director Paul J. Nigra said Wednesday a "Good Morning America" film crew also visited the residence of autistic lead singer Michelle King and the group home of blind drummer David LaGrange, both in Gloversville.

Pflum said the Sept. 16 airing of the segment is only "tentative." She said it may not run that day if a major news story occurs that morning.

Nigra said "Good Morning America" learned about Flame through Lexington staff member Kathy Simone.

He said she was in contact with the show about an unrelated segment regarding getting children to clean their room, and she later "raved" about Flame and the need for ABC to tape a segment.

Flame, led by King, was formed in 2003. The group's CDs and live performances include covers of songs such as "Hotel California," "I Think We're Alone Now" and "La Bamba."

Network television has shown some interest in Flame in the past, but never followed through on the band, which has played nationally and internationally.

Nigra said The Learning Channel was in Schenectady in 2006 filming a segment and was told about Flame by the producer of one of Flame's CDs.

He said executives at that national cable network were so "intrigued" by Flame, they pitched a reality series to follow the group around, but that idea fell through.