

'Kamome' documentary tells story of Crescent City's bond with Rikuzentakata, Japan

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In a news cycle dominated by COVID-19 coronavirus setbacks, the Crescent City Del Norte Chamber of Commerce received some good news Wednesday.

The story of “Kamome” was released on NBC’s new streaming platform, Peacock.

“It is amazing! It beautifully tells the story of our two cities and our school students who made the impossible happen. Watch it, you’ll be warmed to the core,” Chamber Director Cindy Vosburg said.

This 23-minute documentary tells the heartwarming story of how a massive tsunami overwhelmed Rikuzentakata, Japan, on March 11, 2011, damaging huge parts of the city.

After being swept away in the tsunami, a high school’s boat, Kamome, made the epic, almost 5,000-mile journey across the Pacific Ocean to wash ashore in Crescent City more than two years later — on April 7, 2013. Later that year, a delegation from Crescent City returned the boat to its original home in Rikuzentakata, forever endearing the two cities to one another.

As part of their coverage for the 2020 Olympics in Japan (which has since been postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), NBC Sports crafted a documentary detailing the relationship that developed between Crescent City and Rikuzentakata after the return of the the boat Kamome.

Vosburg said from all accounts, NBC Sports still intends to release the story during the Summer Olympics next July.

“But until then we can enjoy it on Peacock,” she said.

“Rikuzentakata and Crescent City are half a world apart, but connected by tragedy, chance and a 10,000-mile journey across open waters,” the documentary’s narration begins. “The unlikely friendships that blossom between parallel towns are a reminder of humanity's best instincts.”

“Kamome” a is now streaming live on NBC’s Peacocktv.com. Peacock is a subscription video-on-demand streaming service, which is currently free, owned and operated by the Television and Streaming division of NBCUniversal, a subsidiary of Comcast.

For a direct link to the “Kamome” documentary go to <https://bit.ly/2CDPifA>. Simply set up an account with your email and start watching. (It’s free, no credit card required.)