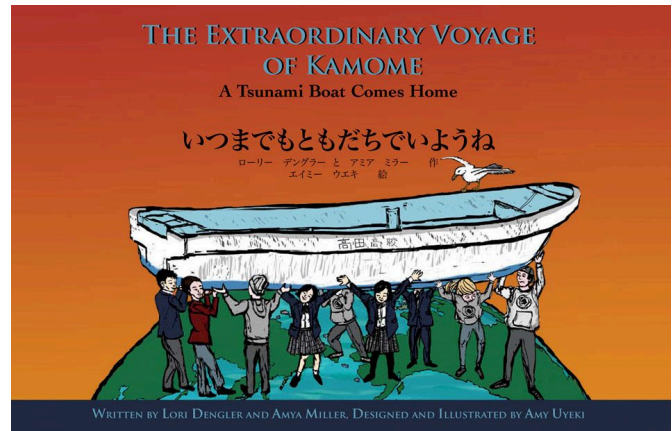


Kamome Festival Kicks Off

April 2, 2025



Next week marks the 12th anniversary the little boat from Takata High School in Rikuzentakata, Japan- called Kamome- washed ashore in Crescent City. The small craft made an almost 5,000 mile journey across the Pacific to South Beach over the course of two years.

Students at Del Norte High restored the Kamome and worked to return it to Takata High School.

The tragic event opened the gate to a sister city relationship between Rikunzentakata and Crescent City. Over the years, delegations from both countries have swapped visits and students who've added cultural enrichment, the student exchange program and unique business opportunities. The Kamome, the Boat of Hope has become a symbol of resilience and hope.

City staff is preparing to host the 3rd annual Kamome Festival opening, Monday, April 7th, covering several days.

Understanding the precarious and oft-times unpredictable weather, organizers of the event have planned more pop-up festival events at local businesses, restaurants, coffee shops and food trucks to participate by offering a special Kamome-themed menu.

Here are some of the events scheduled and can be found on the website, Kamomefestival.com:

- Kamome Cheese Tasting at Rumiano Cheese Factory
- Ikebana Floral Display at Enchanted Forest
- Tsunami Lanes, Kamome-themed bowling
- Gojira-themed Tabletop Gaming at Kobald's Lair.
- Karaoke at Port O'Pints North
- Student Emergency Preparedness event.
- Kamome Cardboard Boat Racing at Fred Endert Pool.
- Kamome Festival Pre-Party at Port O'Pints South, with hi-ordori fire dance.
- Shinrin-Yoku (Forest Bathing), hosted by Redwood Parks Conservancy.
- Tsunami Walking Tour
- Cultural Center Activities.
- Anime Movie Screening at Crescent City Cinemas
- Taste of Japan with sampling of Japanese-inspired small plates made with locally sourced ingredients, an art exhibit by DNACA, a silent auction, screening of Kamome documentary, tailored drum performance and bon dance performance hosted by the Kamome Foundation.

The Council waived pro-rated fees for the Taste of Japan (evening event) at the Cultural Center as the City will already be using the space during the day- and the event aligns with the existing goals of the festival- disaster Preparedness and Cultural education, economic development and tourism marketing.

The estimated cost to host the Festival is about \$4500 to host the Kamome Cardboard Boat Race, Student Emergency Preparedness Event and Cultural Center activities. Those funds come from the established sister city account.