

Search

Most Viewed Most E-Mailed

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Share Tweet 0

Latest news

- 1. Coachella, '#couchella' abuzz about Daft Punk, R. Kelly
- 2. LAKERS NOTEBOOK: GM Mitch Kupchak says coach Mike D'Antoni not to...
- 3. Kobe Bryant's trainer: Mental, not physical, aspect will be toughest...
- 4. Man found shot dead in his car in Van Nuys
- 5. Fire burns man after homeless man allegedly throws flammable...
- 6. USC FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK: Secondary could be Trojans' main concern
- 7. Teenage boy from Rosamond killed in car crash in Palmdale
- 8. VINCENT BONSIGNORE on THE LAKERS: Kobe Bryant's season-ending injury...
- 9. Lakers star Kobe Bryant has surgery, expected to return next season
- 10. Six Flags Magic Mountain introduces Full Throttle roller coaster

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize

Japanese tsunami debris joins towns separated by an ocean

By Kimberly Wear, The Times-Standard
Posted: 04/12/2013 07:25:43 AM PDT
Updated: 04/12/2013 04:34:42 PM PDT



- No Powerball tickets sold with all six numbers
- Patrol: 16 hurt in bus crash near Yosemite park
- LAUSD chief John Deasy draws fire as he pursues aggressive reform plan
- L.A.'s simmering pot wars come to a boil on May 21
- Venezuela's choice: Hugo Chavez heir or fresh start
- Coachella, '#couchella' abuzz about Daft Punk, R. Kelly
- Lakers star Kobe Bryant has surgery, expected to return next season
- Culinary programs at community colleges explode in popularity thanks to television chefs
- Degree from expensive Pasadena culinary arts school no guarantee of a job
- Tax returns to serve as basis for health coverage under Obamacare

Local News

- LAUSD chief John Deasy draws fire as he pursues aggressive reform plan
- L.A.'s simmering pot wars come to a boil on May 21
- Teenage boy from Rosamond killed in car crash in Palmdale, driver arrested in possible DUI
- Man found shot dead in his car in Van Nuys
- Fire burns man after homeless man allegedly throws flammable substance into car
- Join a group, get involved, expand your horizons in the San Fernando Valley and beyond
- West Hollywood man dies of bacterial meningitis
- Home Depot giving counsel to employees who witness man saw own arms
- Robinson family thrilled with release of Jackie Robinson movie '42'
- Dry Southern California winter raises drought, fire concerns

'We do not want to be forgotten. This is our hope.'

Those were the words of Rikuzentakata Mayor Futoshi Toba in a message posted on the Internet to "our friends overseas" after the March 11, 2011, tsunami swept away most of the once prosperous Japanese city.

Thousands of miles away in Crescent City, Calif., 35 boats were crushed and most of the harbor's docks were swept away by the series of surges generated by the magnitude-9.0 earthquake that struck an ocean away. The town, which has its own history of wave-driven devastation, was spared.

Two years later, Rikuzentakata and Crescent City may share another connection. A small, barnacle-encrusted boat washed up just south the northern California city earlier this week.

Once officially verified, the 21-foot panga boat from Rikuzentakata will become the first documented piece of tsunami debris to reach California's shores — joining 26 others found in Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and British Columbia.

The words "Takata High School" — handwritten in Japanese characters on the boat's side — were among the first clues to its long journey across the Pacific Ocean.

iboldt State University librarian translated the characters for geology professor Lori Dengler, she jures on the city of Rikuzentakata's Facebook page. Within hours, a teacher confirmed that the boat the destroyed school, which lost students and instructors when the

wall of water hit the seaside town.

story of this boat went from being 'way cool' and 'really neat' to sending chills up my spine,' Dengler

e Dengler stood in Rikuzentakata was one year after the devastating quake and resulting tsunami 8,000 across Japan. More than 3,300 buildings were completely or partially destroyed. The city of washed away, and nearly 2,000 residents were killed.

member being there, the wind, the sand, the debris," she said. "The one thing photos never show is

- r, Rikuzentakata's global public information officer, said the boat's find was a cause for celebration.
- if us in Rikuzentakata, these are experiences we will never get used to, and for giving us something itely joyful about, to talk about, to laugh about, and to be absolutely giddy — we are grateful,' she

Most of the high school students have been relocated to a town 30 minutes away, which had a campus that was not being used.

'We needed this desperately,' Miller said. "It's wonderful.'

Today, Rikuzentakata remains a city frozen in time.

Miller said none of the city's officials ever thought recovery would take so long.

'We live with the scenes of the disaster every day, and the city is absolutely resolute to rebuild,' she said.

Photo: The barnacle-encrusted boat that washed up near Crescent City this week has been positively identified by a teacher as belonging to a school in Rikuzentakata, Japan, that was destroyed by the March 2011 tsunami. The find has brought great joy to the community, according to a city spokeswoman. (Redwood Coast Tsunami Group)

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize Return to Top

• Readers: [Learn more about our commenting system](#)

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

<p>LA.COM Deals</p> <p>Post to Facebook</p> <p>Facebook social plugin</p>	<p>L.A. County's food tr... tion program moving slowly</p> <p>Robinson family thrilled with release of Jackie Robinson movie '42</p> <p>Home Depot giving counsel to employees who witnessed man saw own arms</p> <p>Richard Alarcon walks out of L.A. City Council meeting over homeless housing dispute</p> <p>Dry Southern California winter raises drought, fire concerns</p> <p>Security guard shot dead in Panorama City</p> <p>Group says Los Angeles county, city under siege from lawsuits</p> <p>Panorama City homicide nets arrest, 2nd suspect sought</p> <p>Spotted: Celebrities at Coachella</p> <p>Teenage boy from Rosamond killed in car crash in Palmdale, driver arrested in possible DUI</p> <p>LAUSD chief John Deasy draws fire as he pursues aggressive reform plan</p> <p>L.A.'s simmering pot wars come to a boil on May 21</p> <p>Travel: Take the kids to Kyoto and mix fun with antiques</p> <p>Artist Richard Jackson explores humor and oddity in a collection of objects</p> <p>Cooking good in the San Fernando Valley and beyond</p> <p>So many books, so little time - book discussions and events in the San Fernando Valley and beyond</p> <p>DVDs: 'Django Unchained' is recycled Tarantino</p> <p>Popular video game 'Defiance' inspires Syfy TV series examining the uneasy co-existence of aliens and humans</p> <p>Alvin Ailey Dance Theater has new leader, expanded vision</p> <p>Nutrition: Restaurants don't always meet nutritional guidelines with kids' meals</p> <p>Senior Moments: Sibling saga takes poetic turn</p> <p>Helen Dennis: 'Village' concept at work at Westchester Playa, Pasadena sites</p> <p>CD Review: 'Pioneer,' The Band Perry</p> <p>Join a group, get involved, expand your horizons in the San Fernando Valley and beyond</p>	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>Security guard shot dead in Panorama City 1 people recommend this.</p> <p>Obamacare has Southern California health officials scrambling 4 people recommend this.</p> <p>Coachella, '#couchella' abuzz about Daft Punk, R. Kelly 17 people recommend this.</p> <p>Doug McIntyre: There's nothing civil about censorship 39 people recommend this.</p> <p>Facebook social plugin</p>
---	---	---

- Digital billboards in Los Angeles ordered to go dark by Monday
- Man found shot dead in his car in Van Nuys
- Race for campaign cash; mayor's race exceed \$10 million
- Eric Garcetti, Wendy Greuel show off differences in first L.A. mayoral runoff debate
- West Hollywood man dies of bacterial meningitis
- Obamacare has Southern California health officials scrambling