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Memorial to honor local man who died at sea

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The family of a Warrenton man who was killed last year when his commercial crab boat capsized will honor him with a memorial bench at Seafarer's Park.

"Zach loved the river there," Bob Zappone told members of the Warrenton Parks Advisory Board at their meeting on Monday. "He loved the ocean and he died doing something he really, really enjoyed."

The 38-foot Coastal Reign went down in rough waters at the Tillamook Bay bar on Feb. 20, 2021.

Crew members Zach Zappone, 41, and Todd Chase, 51, both of Warrenton, died shortly after a U.S. Coast Guard rescue team pulled them from the water. Two other crew members survived.

The Coast Guard had been watching the area because there were small craft restrictions due to bad weather and choppy seas. A rescue crew was sent immediately from nearby Garibaldi and a helicopter from Astoria when the vessel's crew issued a distress call shortly before 4:40 p.m. that day.

"We've got lots of family members and friends in the Hammond area," Bob Zappone said. "This would be a real meaningful thing for all

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Above: One of several memorial benches near Seafarer's Park in Hammond.

Right: Zach Zappone doing what he loved on the sea.



Warrior football team wins in academic ways

The Columbia Press

There's more to high school football than just winning.

Warrenton High School's football team was one of 62 teams across the nation to be recognized for academic achievement.

The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame recognized Warrenton – one of five teams named in Oregon – for the award earlier this month. Cypress Woods High School in Texas won the top award.

The foundation created the award a year ago to inspire and foster a culture of academic excellence on high school football teams throughout the nation. "I am very proud of our student-athletes' efforts over the past three years," said Ian O'Brien, Warrenton High School's assistant principal and head football coach. "Warrenton football student-athletes have been recognized for their remarkable accomplishments in the classroom over the past three years and, this last year, we were named a finalist for the state of Oregon with our No. 1 overall ranking at the 3A classification level."

The 62 schools were selected by the individual states' high school coach associations from a pool of semifinalists submitted by each school's head coach.

To be eligible, the teams had to have a cumulative team grade-point average of at least 3.0, show superior academic application and performance, and have a successful football season.



O'Brien

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Research team building better packaging materials

BY SEAN NEALON
Oregon State University

A new study could help turn apple waste into environmentally friendly packaging material.

Oregon State University scientists believe the new material would serve as an alternative to plastic.

Recycled newspaper has traditionally been the main ingredient of so-called molded pulp packaging products, which have become increasingly popular because they are compostable. But the supply of recycled newspaper is in decline, creating

a market for substitute materials.

Yanyun Zhao, an OSU professor who leads a research team focusing on sustainable food packaging and processing, has studied apple pomace and other byproducts from processing fruit and vegetable juice and winemaking as an alternative for recycled newspaper in molded pulp manufacturing. She and the team received a patent for the research.

"Right now, apple pomace is typically just composted or used for animal feed," said Zhao, whose research aims to reduce food loss and waste



Yanyun Zhao with pack material examples created in her lab.