

The Beaufort Gazette



MIKE RITTERBECK Submitted photo

Hilton Head Island Athletic Director Joe Monmonier died Wednesday. The longtime director was known for putting in long hours managing the Seahawks while serving on the board for the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association.

Longtime Hilton Head athletic director dies unexpectedly

BY LI KHAN
lkhan@islandpacket.com

Hilton Head father, husband, athletic director, coach, and fishing enthusiast Joe Monmonier died Wednesday, Hilton Head Island High School announced on their Facebook page. In the statement posted Thursday,

Hilton Head Island High School Principal Steve Schidrich praised Monmonier's commitment to athletic excellence. "Joe was more than an athletic director—he was a true champion for our Seahawk community," Schidrich wrote. "His impact on generations of students, athletes, and colleagues will be remembered for years to come." Monmonier served as Hilton Head

Island High School's Athletic Director for the past 13 years and a boys lacrosse coach there earlier in his career.

FROM LACROSSE COACH TO ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
The longtime coach has been at HHIHS since August 2006, starting out

SEE DIRECTOR, 5A

Hilton Head beaches to get \$47M sand renourishment

BY LYDIA LARSEN
llarsen@islandpacket.com

The Town of Hilton Head has finalized their schedule and start date for the \$47.5 million dollar beach renourishment project.

The project is split up into three phases, with the first beginning on Aug. 6 on Fish Haul Beach. The town anticipates that the whole project will finish in May 2026. The town pursues beach renourishment about every 10 years to offset the effects of storms and erosion on local

beaches. Contractors will dredge in total around 2.2 million cubic yards of sand from an offshore site and push it through pipes to the island's beaches. Once on the beach, bulldozers and other equipment will move the sand where it needs to go. The project is funded by a town tax on short term rentals and hotels. Due to construction activities, the town will close Fish Haul Beach Park for approximately 5 days starting Aug.

SEE BEACHES, 4A

Sharks rebounding near Hilton Head; fishermen are noticing

BY LYDIA LARSEN
llarsen@islandpacket.com

Captain Marc Pincus doesn't think sharks get enough credit. "They are smart," Pincus said. "They adapt." The owner of Reelin Charters spends his days taking tourists out shark fishing on the waters around Hilton Head, where the currents, bait and other factors all collide to make the waters conducive to sizable shark populations. But when Pincus fishes for king mackerel during tournaments in recent years, the sharks have made it difficult for fishermen to bring fish into the boat, often eating fish right off the hook. Pincus isn't the only one who noticed the pattern. "Depredation" by sharks, where a shark partially or completely removes a fish off the end of an anglers hook, has been catching the attention of fishermen in Hilton Head and across the coast. A declining shark fishery and decades of successful conservation efforts have allowed shark populations to begin a rebound. The conservation win combined with the shark's intellectual prowess has caught the attention of local fishermen. The changes have put their fishing prowess to the test and, in some cases, changed how they do business.

THE REBOUND
In short, it appears that shark populations are increasing in the area, according to South Carolina Department of Natural Resources biologist Bryan Frazier. Often mistaken for bull sharks, sandbar sharks are the main species that is snapping fish off the end of fishing lines, Chip Michalove, a local charter captain, said. They're one of the largest shark species in the area. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has taken note. Depredation by sharks is a growing concern for recreational anglers. There are a number of possible reasons, including the recovery of certain shark species following protections from overfishing, an increase in the number of fishermen and sharks learning to associate boats with quick, easy meals. In recent years, the commercial shark fishery has declined due to new regulations that banned the sale of shark fins, which were one of the most profitable parts of the fish. The changes have made it difficult for the industry to remain profitable and the

SEE SHARKS, 5A

We're dedicated to delivering the journalism you rely on. Discover the stories that matter to you inside. Subscribers, explore more stories and features like puzzles and games at beaufortgazette.com/edition.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
877-706-8100
beaufortgazette.com/customer-service

A t-storm
76°/90° See 10B
HILTON HEAD, S.C.
(Saturday night low and Sunday high)

7 68663 50003 8

GREAT ESTATE

Buying Event

SELL US YOUR VALUABLES!

If you've been thinking about selling your valuables, there's no better time or place. Our experienced, knowledgeable experts will evaluate any item, no matter how small, and make you an offer. If you choose to sell, we'll pay you on the spot. Don't miss this exclusive opportunity.

Robert's Jewelers

20% BONUS FOR SELLERS WHO TAKE AN IN-STORE CREDIT

To secure your place in line, simply scan our QR code. Registration opens at 10am on event days. For more information, call 855-441-6724 or visit JulesEstateBuyers.com

Tuesday-Thursday: 10am-5pm, Friday: 10am-3pm
20 Hatton Pl., Suite 220, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926 (next to Walgreens)
No Appointment Necessary

JULY 15 - 18

JULES
ESTATE BUYERS

*We are not an authorized Rolex dealer nor are we affiliated or endorsed by Rolex, Rolex USA, or any of its subsidiaries. Great Estate Buying Event™ is presented in partnership with Jules Estate Buyers, Inc. ©2025 Jules Estate Buyers, Inc. All Rights Reserved.