



SPORTS PAGE



Belleville baseball drops opening games to Monroe, Wyandotte

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

BELLEVILLE -- Belleville varsity baseball coach Dave Stamper is hoping to turn the team around following a pair of losses to open up the season.

On back-to-back games on April 2 and 3, the Tigers dropped a 10-2 game to Monroe and came up short in a 9-3 loss to Wyandotte the next day.

The Trojan bats gathered eight runs in the first three innings against Tiger pitchers Phillip Sullens, Tim Vanbivier, and Matt Lemmons, who settled things down a bit and gave the Tigers the chance to come back.

Against the Bears, the Tigers left the bases loaded twice, and hit into three double plays and could not capitalize. The Belleville offense was highlighted by a triple by Andrew Overholt.

Despite losing seven seniors last year to graduation, first year Coach Stamper believes his hitting is coming around and his pitching is right behind.

Belleville's weeklong schedule of games two week's ago was cancelled due to the weather.

Celebrate Earth Day Sat/ with free entry at area Metroparks

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In honor of Earth Day, this Saturday, April 21, all of the area Metroparks will allow free vehicle entry permit, while annual cleanup activities are going on.

Nearby Oakwoods Metropark northwest of Flat Rock will conduct a park cleanup, from 10 a.m. until Noon. Complimentary lunch will be provided to those helpers that register in advance. Other parks having cleanup programs include Lake Erie and Kensington.

In addition to the free vehicle entry, free boat launching will also be offered at Lake Erie Metropark as well as other parks that have boat-launching facilities.

For more information, visit the official metropark website at www.metroparks.com.

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Phil Hecksel snapped this photo of an eagle taking home his dinner after catching it on on Belleville Lake.

Metroparks to be added to newly designated water trail

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

The greenway initiative plan, a proposed stretch of bicycle and pedestrian pathway system being developed across southeast Michigan, will see an aquatic version being developed in the coming months.

The Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) has released plans for the Detroit Heritage River Water Trail, the first water trail planned for Southeast Michigan and the only one developed along a river designated by both Canada and the United States as a Heritage River.

The Detroit Heritage River Water Trail is a river version of a greenway trail and will provide opportunities for canoeing, kayaking and small boat paddling.

In the plan, the trail will meander through the Detroit River, Huron River, Rouge River and Raisin River Systems. The trail will traverse along the shorelines of Lower Huron, Oakwoods, Willow and Lake Erie Metroparks.

The Detroit Heritage River Water Trail Project was undertaken by Mac as part of its Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative in cooperation with local governments as well as key stakeholders, including the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, Friends of the Detroit River, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Michigan Sea Grant, National Park Service, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and Wayne County

Parks.

The project is already seeing some development as communities and businesses up and down the 32-mile riverfront are transforming the stretch along the Detroit River with parks and other waterfront development. Greenways are being created from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie and up tributaries like the Rouge, Ecorse, and Huron Rivers. The vision of the project is to create string of riverfront greenways, parks, and non-motorized transportation trails.

The proposed project shows both water and paved trails through the above three metro parks, as well as stopping points of interest along the way. A map of the project shows local pinpointed locations as Belleville Lake West, Belleville Lake East, and French Landing.

For more information on the trail and to see the official poster, visit www.mac-web.org.

Huron River Watershed Council sets river forecast April 26

The Huron River Watershed Council invites the public to hear about the future health of the Huron River and its watershed as part of its annual meeting at 6 p.m. on April 26 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road.

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