



## Local News

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### In brief

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### Watervliet shuts down skate park

WATERVLIET - The skateboard park at Hays Park has been closed due to safety problems, Police Chief Don Divis said.

"It's just dilapidated," Divis told city commissioners this week. "There are some screws sticking out of some of the ramps. It's a safety issue."

There is no timeline for reopening it, Divis said.

In other city businesses, engineer Alan Smaka of Wightman & Associates of Benton Township told commissioners the Michigan Department of Transportation has canceled a 2011 project to upgrade M-140 in the city and north and south of the city in Watervliet Township. He said he doesn't know if the work will be done in 2012 or 2013, he said.

### VB advocacy group joins state effort

LAWRENCE - Members from the Great Start Collaborative of Van Buren County will be in East Lansing on Aug. 26 to join people from Michigan's 55 other Great Start Collaboratives and 70 Great Start Parent Coalitions for an afternoon of education, entertainment and advocacy, the child advocacy organization announced.

The nonpartisan event, called the "Sandbox Party Convention," is committed to promoting the idea that early childhood is crucial to a prosperous future for Michigan.

The collaborative is inviting people to join them. A chartered bus is available and lunch will be provided. For more details, call 539-5214. The event will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Breslin Student Event Center at Michigan State University.

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