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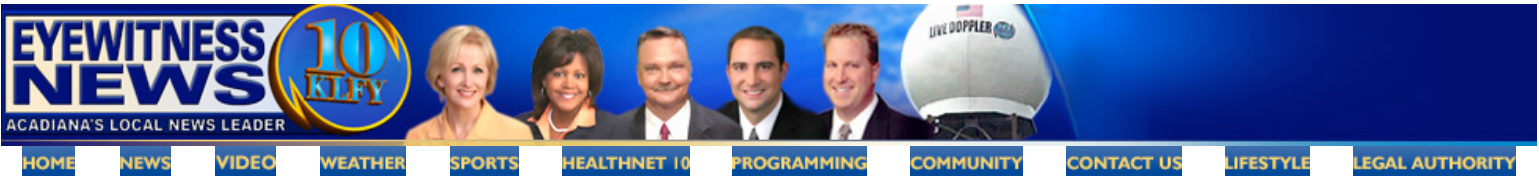

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## Broussard Officer Terminated

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The internal investigation is over and a Broussard police officer is now jobless and behind bars.

Broussard Police Chief Brannon Decou took the microphone to give Broussard PD's side of the story Wednesday.

A member of a young girl's family accused former officer Henry Bates of having sexual relations with her over the last year. They took their claims to the Lafayette Sheriff's Department.

"Once they made the complaint we started our investigation and through that investigation they found sufficient evidence to support their complaint" says Lafayette Sheriff's Lt. Department Craig Stansbury.

Bates is now being held on \$175,000 bond at the Lafayette Parish Jail. Chief Decou disciplined Bates Tuesday.

"I immediately put him on unpaid administrative leave and I retrieved his badge and police credentials from him."

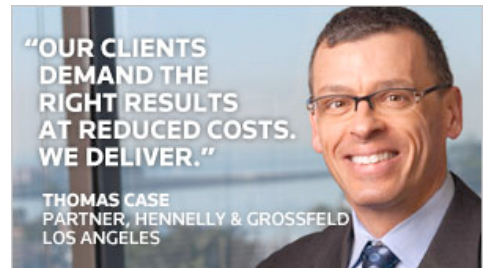
But that punishment didn't last long. Police finished their internal investigation in less than a day, and they found enough evidence of officer misconduct to remove bates from the force.

Decou says this process has been especially difficult for him and the entire Broussard Police Department, largely because no one saw it coming.

"Does this seem like it's something out of character for him. Yes. As a person, Henry is a good person. He's a good police officer. And I feel that he has made a mistake in his life and he has to pay the consequences that come with that."

Decou wasn't able to comment on the details behind bates misconduct, as the criminal investigation in this case with sheriff's department is ongoing.

Sean Maginnis


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## Broussard PD Press Release: From Chief Brannon Decou

On Tuesday February 22, 2011 I was notified that Juvenile Detectives with the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office was investigating a criminal complaint in reference to four counts of Molestation of a Juvenile and (1) one count of Oral Sexual Battery on 28 year old Henry Samuel Bates of Broussard, which is an officer for the Broussard Police Department. I immediately sent his supervisor and an investigator to go get Henry and bring him to the office. Upon their arrival I immediately informed him that he was being placed on unpaid administrative leave and I retrieved his badge and police credentials from him. Sheriff's Office investigators then came in to speak with him and brought him to their office for an interview.

An internal investigation was started immediately because we consider this a serious matter and don't take this lightly

since we are held to a higher standard. Today I received the findings of the internal investigation which substantiated violation of departmental policy and ultimately resulted in the termination of Corporal Bates from the Broussard Police Department.

We will not tolerate this type of behavior and I will make sure that our officers continue to be professionals and held to a higher standard as the public has come to expect from the Broussard Police Dept. Law Enforcement as a whole takes a hit when something like this occurs but I would like to make known that none of these offenses occurred while Henry was on-duty as a police officer, nor did anything occur on school grounds. I have re-assigned another officer to Broussard Middle School as the SRO and we will continue to provide your children a safe environment there. We worked together with the Sheriff's Office on this and we will continue to work with them and the DA's Office to make sure that they have everything they need for their case.

We take these crimes seriously and want anyone that is a victim of a crime to report it to their local law enforcement agency.

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#### **Broussard Officer Arrested**

A Broussard Police officer is behind bars facing molestation charges. Corporal Henry Samuel Bates is charged with four counts of juvenile molestation and one count of oral sexual battery.

The Broussard Police Department says they won't stand for that type of behavior.

"We regret that this has occurred I just want to say that we stand for what's right and we're gonna do the right thing and make sure this doesn't occur again" says Broussard Police Chief Brandon Decou.

The young girl Bates allegedly had sex with was only 14 years old at the time of the incident. But the young girl's family just came forward with the charges just days ago of what they believe occurred.

"(He) had inappropriate sex with his victim last year they were saying maybe four times" says Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department's Craig Stansbury.

It's a hideous crime. A crime that has the entire Broussard Police Department feeling the brunt of the blow.

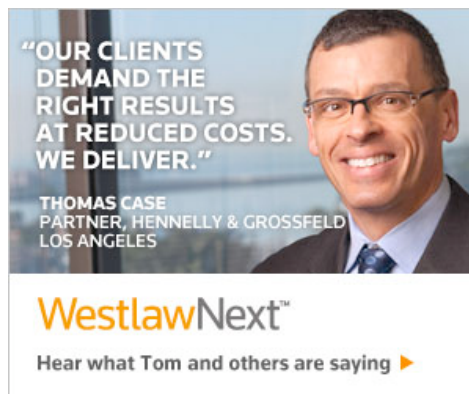
"Naturally, any police officer arrested affects morale of others in the agency and others in law enforcement" says Decou.

While the alleged crime can't be avoided or undone at this point. Broussard PD has vowed to do everything they can to make sure it never happens again. The Broussard Police Department has already assigned another student resource officer to Broussard Middle. He'll be on the job at school tomorrow.

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On Tuesday February 22, 2010 Juvenile Detectives with the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office arrested 28 year old Henry Samuel Bates of Broussard on (4) four counts of Molestation of a Juvenile and (1) one count of Oral Sexual Battery.

The Lafayette Sheriff's Office received a complaint on Monday February 21, 2010 from a family member of the victim, who is a 15 year old female. The complaint stated that the suspect (Henry Samuel Bates) had inappropriate sexual contact with the victim at his residence in Broussard four times in 2010. During the investigation detectives discovered evidence that supported the complaint and obtained a warrant for Bates arrest. Henry Bates was arrested without incident and is presently incarcerated at the Lafayette Parish Correctional Facility with a bond of \$175,000



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