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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 10, 2012

MISSING BASH BISH FALLS HIKER LOCATED

Copake, NY – Columbia County Sheriff David Harrison, Jr. reports that 28 year old Kyle Pember of Northborough Massachusetts who was reported missing while hiking in the Bash Bish Falls area of Copake Falls was found this morning at 4:17am.

Pember had been hiking with his father when they became separated on Monday October 8th at about 3:00PM. Columbia County 911 was contacted by the father and the call was assigned to Sheriff's Patrols. During the search it was determined that the younger Pember had been last seen on the Massachusetts side of the border and the case was subsequently turned over to authorities in that state where emergency personnel including the Massachusetts State Police and Emergency Management, Pittsfield Fire and the Berkshire Fire Coordinator's Office participated in the search, while members of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, NY State Police, NYS Forest Rangers, members of the Copake and Ancram Fire Departments, Copake Rescue Squad, State Park officials and police searched on the New York side.

Helicopters from the Massachusetts and New York State Police assisted throughout.

Last evening, October 9th at about 11:45PM Pember's father contacted the Sheriff's Office and reported that his son had called him by cell phone. He told his father that he did not know exactly where he was and that he was cold, scared and possibly hurt and that he "wanted to come out". Pember also contacted Columbia County 911 who was able to determine the coordinates of his cell phone. The Sheriff's Office had also been in contact with Verizon Wireless who was assisting with locating Kyle's cell phone. Using the coordinates, emergency personnel were able to locate Pember about 1.5 miles north of Undermountain Road in Copake. Pember appeared to be cold, hungry but uninjured.

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Members of the Copake Rescue Squad evaluated Pember and transported him to Columbia Memorial Hospital for further evaluation.

Kyle Pember indicated to officials from the Sheriff's Office that he had stayed in the woods intentionally. At this time, it does not appear that his father knew that Kyle had intentionally stayed in the heavily wooded and mountainous area of the Taconic State Park when he initially contacted Columbia County 911 to report that his son was missing in the park.

Sheriff Harrison thanks the volunteer firefighters of the Copake and Ancram fire companies as well as the other Massachusetts, New York State and Columbia County agencies who worked many hours to find Kyle Pember. The Sheriff said that this was a tremendous undertaking to locate someone who was believed to be lost or possibly injured. He said that the District Attorney's Office has been contacted concerning the possibility of criminal charges, as well as the Columbia County Attorney's Office concerning the possibility of taking legal action for reimbursement for fuel, equipment and overtime incurred by the emergency services agencies involved. The Sheriff said that one firefighter from Pittsfield and one from Copake suffered non-life threatening injuries during the search.

The investigation is continuing.