



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release:

July 21, 2026

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

K9 Cash Finds Lost Hiker in the Town of Sanford and Wanted Fugitive in the Town of Chenango in Separate Incidents 48 hours Apart

(TOWN OF SANFORD, NY) A lost 60-year-old hiker was successfully found and returned to her family after Broome County Sheriff's Office K9 Cash and his partner, Deputy Chuck Loudon responded to a missing person report in the Town of Sanford. Less than 48 hours later, K9 Cash successfully tracked a wanted fugitive following a domestic incident in the Town of Chenango.

Lost Hiker Found

On Thursday, July 16, 2026 around 12:52 PM, members of the Broome County Sheriff's Office Road Patrol responded to a report of a woman lost in a wooded area near 138 Homer Smith Rd in the Town of Sanford. The caller, noted that her sister had been walking in the woods, but she had been unable to locate her sister for nearly two hours.

Deputy Loudon and K9 Cash deployed to the lost woman's last known location and began tracking south. After tracking for 400-500 feet, K9 Cash began picking up a scent, lifting his head and ears before running forward. K9 Cash then paused to a stop, appearing to hear something ahead. As the K9 unit continued, Deputy Loudon heard a female voice and called out.

The voice was found to belong to the lost sister, who stated that she was unhurt, but had indeed gotten lost while walking in the area. The lost woman was successfully escorted from the woods to the road, where her family was waiting for her.

Wanted Town of Chenango Man Found after Fleeing Domestic Incident

Less than 48 hours later, Deputy Loudon and K9 Cash successfully located a wanted fugitive in the Town of Chenango.

General Information:
(607) 778-1911

Fiscal:
(607) 778-2928

Garnishees:
(607) 778-2926

Civil:
(607) 778-2145

Identification:
(607) 778-2924

Records:
(607) 778-2166

On Saturday, July 18, 2026 at approximately 10:27 AM, members of the Broome County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a domestic incident on State Route 12 in the Town of Chenango. One of the actors in the domestic incident was Christopher A. LaFever, age 41 of the Town of Chenango, NY, who was found to have an active warrant out of the City of Binghamton. As patrols arrived at the residence in question to deal with the incident, LaFever ran out the back door and into the woods.

Deputy Loudon and K9 Cash then arrived at the scene and were directed to LaFever's last known location at the wood line behind the residence. Despite the thick vegetation, and rainy conditions, K9 Cash tracked southwest through several hundred yards of congested woods to a NYSEG clearing before heading south for approximately 50 yards toward State Route 12 and into the backyard of a residence.

As K9 Cash tracked southward, BCSO Patrols maintained a perimeter in the area of Route 12.

A nearby resident then reported to patrols that they had observed LaFever running through the area on a trail camera. After conferring with other responding patrols, Deputy Loudon and K9 Cash continued the track south toward Route 12 until LaFever was successfully taken into custody by patrols. It was later confirmed that K9 Cash had closely followed LaFever's path until his capture.

LaFever was turned over to Binghamton Police to answer his outstanding warrant, and a request for an Order of Protection was filed in relation to the domestic incident.

The Broome County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the New York State Police in this incident.

"These back-to-back incidents highlight the versatility and unquestioned impact our newly reestablished K9 Division has on keeping our community safe" said Sheriff Fred Akshar. "No matter where you live in Broome County, you deserve to feel safe, and our K9s and their partners are incredibly useful component to that commitment to public safety."

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