



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Search underway for missing state prison inmate

(Yankton, S.D.)- A search is underway for a missing state prison inmate.

Inmate Richard Beckwith signed out of the Yankton Minimum Unit (YMU) to go to his work release job in Yankton this morning. His employer reported this evening that Beckwith was not at the job site. A staff member from YMU checked the work site and another location. Escape procedures were enacted when Beckwith was not found at either site.

Beckwith is 51 years old. He is white, 5-feet-9 inches tall and weighs 145 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes.

Beckwith was sentenced in 2006 to 9 years, 10 months in prison for possession of a controlled substance out of Minnehaha County.

Anyone who sees Beckwith or knows of his whereabouts should contact law enforcement immediately.

The minimum-security units across the state house an average of more than 1,000 inmates daily, with more than 700 of those inmates assigned to either work release or community service work. At the end of May, there were 188 minimum-security inmates on work release, including 40 in Yankton.

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Our mission is to protect the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to our custody by the courts. To provide effective community supervision to offenders upon their release and to utilize evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation.