



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194
Website: <http://doc.sd.gov/>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Winder, SDDOC Communications & Information Manager

State Prison Inmate Missing

RAPID CITY, S.D.- Minimum-security inmate Michael Merrival walked away from his community service job in Rapid City, SD on August 23, 2016. Merrival is housed at the Rapid City Community Work Center, but was working for his community service employer at the time he walked away.

Merrival, age 36, is a Native American male. He is 5-feet-11-inches tall and weighs approximately 160 pounds. He has black hair and dark eyes. Merrival is currently serving a 10-year sentence and a concurrent 5-year sentence for grand theft out of Pennington County. Additional information is available on the Offender Locator at <http://doc.sd.gov/>.

Anyone who sees Merrival or knows of his whereabouts should contact law enforcement immediately. Failing to return following an assignment constitutes second-degree escape, a class 5 felony, and is punishable by a maximum of 5 years in prison. South Dakota Codified Law 22-11A-5 states that any person who conceals any prisoner knowing that the prisoner has escaped is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

There are more than 450 minimum-security inmates working on community service projects across the state. Community Work Centers house minimum-security inmates and parolees in the Community Transition Program.

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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.