



**Don Holloway**  
Sheriff

# Rapid City Police Department Pennington County Sheriff's Office

## "Progress Through Cooperation"



**Steve Allender**  
Chief of Police

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### For Immediate Release

**Contact: Major Brian Mueller**

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**April 2, 2009**  
**9:30 a.m.**

The search for the missing Schade family from Knox County, Nebraska continues in western Pennington County this morning. A search team comprised of Pennington County Search and Rescue, Pennington County Emergency Management, the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Rapid City Police Department, South Dakota Highway Patrol, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, and the US Forest Service has just finished their morning brief and will be beginning search efforts in the area west of Silver City through today.

Investigators from the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, the Rapid City Police Department, and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation continue to coordinate investigative efforts with the Knox County Sheriff's Office and are looking for any help the public may be able to offer. We are specifically interested in anyone who may have seen the Schade family or their vehicle, a black Ford Taurus with Nebraska license plates, between March 21, 2009 to present. Color photographs of the family are attached to this news release and are being distributed to businesses in western Pennington County.

The Knox County Sheriff's Office has released the following information through a news release today:

- On 3-20-09 a Knox County Deputy Sheriff interviewed the entire Schade family reference allegations of abuse. No arrests were made and no injuries were reported.
- On 3-22-09 relatives of Rowena Schade reported they had not had contact with the Schade family and the Knox County SO was asked to assist with locating them.
- The Knox County Sheriff's Office learned the Schades had not been seen since the night of 3-20-09 and they had talked about relocating. Deputies searched the Schade residence and it appeared the family had left in a hurry.
- Over \$1,000 worth of camping survival type gear had recently been purchased and was missing from the residence.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS

- Deputies learned that Schade has expressed he would like to live like a hermit in the mountains and that he had attended a survival type camp through his church in the area of Pactola Lake in the Black Hills for six years in a row. Mathew and Rowena had also spent their honeymoon camping and hiking in the same area approximately three years ago.
- Knox County Sheriff's Office is unsure at this time if Rowena and the children are with Mathew voluntarily.
- Mathew Schade is on probation in Nebraska for a burglary that occurred in 2006 in Nebraska and a warrant for him has been issued for failure to report a change of address and failure to report to his probation officer.
- Rowena Schade is also on probation.

Further press releases will be sent out later today as more information becomes available. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Pennington County Sheriff's Office at 394-2151.

Brian Mueller  
Major  
Pennington County Sheriff's Office

## MISSING FAMILY



The Matthew Schade family left their home in rural Creighton, Nebraska on March 20, 2009 during the night. They left their home with freshly baked cookies still on the table, homework in the living room, and took very few clothes. They have not been heard from since. They did take a lot of camping supplies for cold weather.

Those missing are:

Sean - age 8

Devon - age 11

Rowena - age 29

Matthew (Matt) - in mid to late 20's - may have a full red beard

The above picture is from 2005

Matthew is known to display mood swings from passive to serious anger episodes and is very abusive.

They left their home driving a **2000 Black Ford Taurus with Nebraska license plate # 12-G997**

If you see them, please contact the Knox County Sheriff at 402-288-4261, the Nebraska State Patrol at 402-471-4545 or the Pennington County Sheriff's Office in Rapid City, SD at 605-394-2151