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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

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**(SD)-Search Continues For 9-Year Old Runaway From Group Home**

By: John Axtell Posted at: 02/05/2019 04:33 PM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom says there are now more than 100 people involved in the search for a 9-year-old girl missing since she ran away from a residential youth home near Rockerville late Sunday morning.

Sheriff Thom says today's focus in the hunt for Serenity Dennard is on a 1-mile radius of the youth home campus with residents of the Rockerville, Foster Gulch, and Highway 1 areas still urged to check buildings on their property.

Children's Home Society executive director Bill Colson says Dennard had been playing in the complex's gym when she ran away from staff without a coat about 11:00 Sunday in freezing temperatures.

Sheriff Thom says deputies have been going door to door speaking with neighbors and looking in outbuildings, hay bales, log piles and other spaces.

They were able to find a couple who had spotted the girl while cutting wood Sunday and the couple was able to give investigators a better timeline of events.