



# ***MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT***

*Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff*



## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2017

Contact: Morton County PIO (701) 426-1587

Website: <http://www.co.morton.nd.us/>

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## **Body found along Missouri River identified**

**Mandan, N.D.** – Using past x-ray records, a state medical examiner has determined that the body found along the mouth of the Cannonball River on Tuesday, May 30 is that of Darwin Gratz\*, age 57, of Mandan.

Gratz had been missing since May 11 after going fishing along the Missouri River south of Mandan the prior evening. On the morning of May 11, a boater came upon an idling boat that was in gear along the shore near the Fort Rice boat ramp. Gratz had last made contact with his family around 5:30 p.m. on May 10.

The Morton County Sheriff's Department – assisted by the ND Highway Patrol, ND Game and Fish, Burleigh and Stutsman counties as well as private helicopter service which was funded by Gratz' family – searched by land, water and air for Gratz over the past several weeks. Gratz' family members found the body on Tuesday morning while searching the Missouri River shoreline.

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\*State of North Dakota records show the spelling of the deceased as "Darwin Gratz."

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