

# Music transforms downtown Sonora Friday

Whenever a friend visits me from another state, my first thoughts for activities go to our quaint shops in Jamestown, Columbia and downtown Sonora. On top of the history on display, there's so much to look at and see for both residents and tourists. And of course, as a woman, I do love shopping! A little bit of music and entertainment to go along with my stroll down shopping lane couldn't hurt, either.

For the past 15 years, the city of Sonora and the Sonora Chamber of Commerce have hosted an evening of shopping, music and entertainment downtown. On Friday from 6 to 9 p.m., music will flow up and down the main street as kids get their faces painted and jump around in a bouncy house while their parents shop and listen to tunes ranging from classic rock to Cajun and jazz to Irish. There will be sing-alongs for kids and country music for everyone.

Spreading across seven blocks, the event also includes storytelling for children, a car show with antique fire trucks on display, belly dancing, a fire show from Mountain Mischief



Courtesy photos

**Belly dancers perform and pass out information on Sonora's Magic of the Night on Friday.**

and paintings from Patrick Karnahan on view at the opera hall. Musicians will set up at various

## Magic of the Night

**WHEN:** 6 to 9 p.m. Friday

**WHERE:** Washington Street and others, Sonora

**COST:** Free

**MORE INFO:** [sonoraca.com](http://sonoraca.com) or 532-7725

spots along the downtown route, including the historic Sonora Opera Hall, where new entertainers will appear every 20 minutes. Performers include Chains Required, the Black Irish Band, the Blues Box Bayou Band, the Hills Brothers Band, Rockin Rick and the Rhythm Wranglers, JuJu Jazzers and the Devil Mountain Boys.

"There is entertainment literally from the Red Church to the Sonora Opera Hall and it's all free," Sonora Special Programs Coordinator Sheala Wilkinson said. "It's a really fun night to come downtown and enjoy live music of all kinds. And I

see so many people that I have not seen for a while, so it's great to walk around, hear music, talk to people and just have fun."

Maps for the event will be posted on sandwich boards along the sidewalks and the Guns of the Chosen Few, along with belly dancers, will pass out schedules. The city also posted the schedule on [sonoraca.com](http://sonoraca.com).

Attendees can park on side streets and on Washington Street, which remains open during the festivities. Tuolumne County Transit will make stops at the veteran's hall and at Courthouse Park.

## Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



Wilkinson said merchants love the event and use it as an occasion to hold a variety of sidewalk sales and special promotions. Some of the restaurants and merchants will feature giveaways and drawings.

"Everyone I have talked to loves Magic of the Night and it's been around long enough that people know it's the second Friday in August every year," she said. "Last year, more families came than I have seen before. This should be a time to bring the whole family down and just walk around and enjoy our historic downtown. Sometimes we get so busy we forget what a great heritage with have right here in our own yard. So to wander the streets with music floating around and see plaques of history everywhere is what it's all about."

Send your Tuolumne County events to Harmony Wheeler at [hwheeler@sierralodestar.com](mailto:hwheeler@sierralodestar.com) and [mtaylor@sierralodestar.com](mailto:mtaylor@sierralodestar.com).

# The fence that tamed the Wild West

When the West opened up for homesteading and settlement, one of the greatest benefits was open range. Before fencing, livestock could roam freely and forage for food and water. This sounds romantic, but it came with its own problems.

Livestock had to be monitored and restrained within certain limited grazing grounds. This required cowboys to actively keep an eye on the stock so that animals didn't roam onto lands reserved for other ranchers or other purposes.

Fencing existed, but usually only on a limited basis, like in stockyards. It wasn't realistic to construct wooden fences on the wide open prairies. Wood fences were costly to construct and wood was even harder to come by. Traditional natural methods of providing enclosure, such as drainages or planted hedges, proved impossible on such broad expanses of land.

In the 1860s, many ranchers toyed with various ways to economically

restrain their livestock. Numerous inventors attempted to create economical solutions. Most inventors attempted to use some sort of wire for fencing because it was simple to erect and inexpensive. However, aggressive cattle could still push right through the wires.

When Michael Kelly twisted a spike of wire around the wire fences, that's when things took off. The "thorny fence" idea, similar to the Osage orange hedge, really did deter cattle from tromping through boundaries. Although Kelly sold much of his spiked wire successfully, he forgot to get it patented.

In 1873, Henry Rose displayed his version of a pointy fence. He created a spiked fence post that

*Continued on page 11*

Bonnie Miller

## Mining the Past



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