

Glenn West Nile victim had actually been healthy

Staff Reports (ChicoER.com)

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WILLOWS — A man in his late 80s who died of West Nile virus last week had been in good health, according to Scott Gruendl, Glenn County Health Services Agency director.

On Monday, he had sent out a news release about the death. He told reporters the man who died had developed a mild case of West Nile virus, which killed him because he was in very poor health, suffering from chronic illnesses.

On Tuesday, Gruendl said he was mistaken about that.

When the man's family members learned what news outlets said about his health, they were surprised, and they called Gruendl.

They said the man was in good health, rode his bicycle, and had no chronic illnesses, according to Gruendl.

It also turned out the man had the very serious neuroinvasive form of the disease, not the mild type, Gruendl said.