



## **\$35,000 raised for Solus scholarship fund**

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YREKA -- Siskiyou County residents filled Winema Hall at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds Saturday night for a sold-out tri-tip dinner to benefit the Matt Solus scholarship fund.

Solus was diagnosed with hypertropic cardiomyopathy at 16 and was second in line for a heart transplant at a hospital in Portland, Ore. He was only 22 years old when his heart failed on March 18 and he died.

The Siskiyou County Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Yreka Fire Department had been involved in fund-raising efforts at the time of Solus' death to help finance the family's stay with him while he underwent open-heart surgery. When Solus died, the family agreed that Saturday's benefit dinner and auction should go forward as planned, with all of the money raised to be earmarked for two scholarships in Solus' name. Solus was an Explorer with the sheriff's department and his father, a volunteer with the Yreka Fire Department, is a reserve deputy, so the Matt Solus scholarships will be aimed at students interested in law enforcement and fire science.

Sgt. Matt Rokes of the Siskiyou County Deputy Sheriff's Association said Monday that money raised from dinner tickets and the auction held Saturday night netted the Matt Solus scholarship fund more than \$35,000.

Rokes said it took a lot of local people to put on Saturday's benefit, including cowboy poets Phil Laubacher, Butch Jones and Roy Smith and auctioneers Barry Peters, Frank Rizzardo, Ray Singleton, Joe Suter, Dave Gray and Dick Solus.

Saturday's tri-tip dinner was catered by Tim Perryman and Harvey Hagedorn with Stidham Trucking picking up the cost of the meat, Price Less Foods covering the cost of the bread and the Yreka Fire Department supplying the baked beans.

"There were no complaints about the food," Rokes said.