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A Tribute to Scott

By Penny C. Cadaret

Jun 28, 2002



Argus Observer

ONTARIO -- Almost a year after the death of Scott Foremny, his mother, Denise Mowder, and her family and friends will celebrate his life Saturday with a special evening at the Wayne King Memorial Skate Park in Ontario.

The event is the culmination of year-long effort by Mowder to raise funds for the skatepark -- one of her son's favorite hangouts.



Mowder raised a total of \$5,100 through private, anonymous donations and a silent auction held Feb. 8 during an Ontario High School basketball game. The city matched \$3,900 -- equivalent to the results of the auction -- allowing Mowder to purchase a pyramid-style skateboard ramp and two quarter-pipes for the park.

"I was shocked by how well it came out," Mowder said.

While the pyramid has already been installed, the metal for the quarter-pipes is on back order. Mowder said she expects installation of those shortly.

A dedication for the new equipment, and service in memory of Scott -- who would have graduated from OHS this past spring -- will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by the Scott Foremny Skate Competition.

Mowder said keeping busy with this accomplishment has been therapeutic.

"It's been the thing that's kind of kept me going," Mowder said, adding while she wished she could create some kind of scholarship in Scott's honor, finances would not allow it. She said the contribution to the skate park seems more appropriate.

"I wanted to leave something permanent that was Scott," Mowder said, "and skateboarding was definitely Scott."

The Rev. Bob Sievers will speak at the "not too churchy" memorial service, Mowder said. She has invited people who have helped her with the project, and her family members are flying in from around the country. She said she would like to retire Scott's skateboard, the same way athletes' jerseys are retired.

"This is where he loved to be and we'll all be there," she said.

Mowder expressed her appreciation for the all support she has received, especially for the help of Ontario Police Officer George Tolman. Making Tracks Cyclery and Fitness is putting on the skateboard competition, Mowder said.

"I tried to give them money, but they wouldn't take it," she said.



Mowder said it is her hope the skateboard competition will become an annual event which improves over the years and carries on the spirit of Scott.

She will also be working to install benches, possibly of cement, for skaters to sit on.

Mowder said the skate park provides an important outlet and place to be for area youth.

"We know where they are," Mowder said. "People have to get to know all the kids, there's a whole other group and these are really great kids because they're such individuals."

