

April 17, 2005

### **Community forum to discuss the Schiavo case and end-of-life decisions**

**MISSOULA** – Three Missoula organizations, Life's End Institute, The Center for Ethics at the University of Montana, and The Institute of Medicine and Humanities will sponsor a community discussion Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. A panel comprising a physician, ethicist, politician, chaplain, hospice manager and end-of-life advocate will discuss the issues raised by the Terri Schiavo case. The free event, *Hard Choices for Loving People: The Schiavo Case and End-of-Life Issues*, will be held in Room 330 of the University Center at the University of Montana. Community members are invited to come with their questions and join the dialogue.

“End-of-life situations really do present us with hard choices,” said Lilly Tuholske, executive director of Life's End Institute. “The advances in medical technology allow individuals to live with any number of chronic, debilitating illnesses.”

“But the flip side of that progress is that many of us will find ourselves in situations where we have to make ethically difficult decisions about our own medical care or care for a loved one,” Tuholske added.

The forum panel will include: Beth Ammons, MD; Mark Hanson, Ph.D., interim director at the Center for Ethics at the University of Montana, Pat Williams, former U.S. congressman and political analyst, Greg Shanks, chaplain at Hospice of Missoula, Kit Jackson, director of Hospice of Missoula, and Lilly Tuholske, executive director at Life's End Institute. For more information call Life's End Institute at (406) 728-1613 or the Center for Ethics at the University of Montana at (406) 243-5744.

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