

## Community Invited to Celebrate Earth Day

### -Staff Reports

Montreat College, in conjunction with the Conference Center and the town, will host an Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 23. The day is scheduled with plenty of nature-based activities for the whole family.

Beginning at 10 am a representative from the National Wildlife Federation will award the town of Montreat with a certificate for being North Carolina's first Community Wildlife Habitat. The day will include such activities as a macro-invertebrate walk, a nature hike with plant identification, recycling-awareness crafts, and a reptile and amphibian habitat building project.

After lunch, the afternoon's activities will be a clean up of Flat Creek and visiting

local backyard habitat sites in Montreat.

Christina Heckmann, student organizer for the event, says the Earth Day celebration will offer, "Fun activities to have people become aware of the environment and good stewards."

In a related event on Thursday, April 21, on the Montreat campus, Peter Ilynn from the environmental stewardship organization, Restoring Eden, will present a lecture on Christians' Role in Environmental Stewardship. For more information on his program, go to [www.restoringeden.org](http://www.restoringeden.org).

Contact Dottie Shuman for details about these events at [dshuman@montreat.edu](mailto:dshuman@montreat.edu) or 669-8012, ext. 3405.

## Friends of Music Award Scholarships

### -Staff Reports

Eight music students took part in the third annual Friends of

Music Scholarship Competition held on Friday, April 1.

Placed winners included: first place Jesse Donovan Teets (piano), second place Eileen Lindsay (soprano), third place Andy Black (piano) and honorable mention Jessica Whitener (soprano).

The first two winners will receive a scholarship for next year from Friends of Music \$1,200 and \$800, respectively.

Judges for the competition included Dr. Julie Fortney, professor of music at Mars Hill College; Katherine Palmer adjunct professor and staff accompanist at Brevard College; and Dr. Vance Yoder retired president from the Christian Heritage College of San Diego.

"This was a very exciting event, and all of our 8 students performed very well," said director of music programs, Eunice Stackhouse. "This was a wonderful display of Montreat student talent-concentrated into one afternoon."

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Kortney and *Whetstone* Staff,

We applaud the editorial written about Terri Schiavo and the travesty surrounding the court-ordered removal of her feeding tube. It is overwhelming and saddening to realize that we have reached a day in our beloved country where the most venerable citizens are preyed upon by those who seek to fatally harm them.

In comparing the actions of two parties who claimed to have Terri's best interest at heart, one party embraced life and the directives supporting life; the other party sought the end of Terri's earthly existence and was encouraged by the courts to continue his pursuit. How could the purposeful demise of Terri be in her best interest?

If human life is of no value due to impending death, why did our Lord Jesus "Who being in very nature God....", humble himself and take on the form of human likeness?

As a registered nurse, I can assure you that the use of a feeding tube to support the nutritional and fluid and electrolyte status is a simple, common and often temporary measure. To deny another this therapy even though they may be walking "through the valley of the shadow of death" is heinous and inhumane.

The comfort that we find is that any tear Terri may have shed has been recorded in God's record, (Psalm 56:8).

May God bless you in your pursuits.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Cole  
Montreat, NC

## Letter from the Editor Legacy of the Pope

by April Heyward

On Saturday, April 2, the world reluctantly said goodbye to a great individual. The life of Pope John Paul II serves as a brilliant example of how people should live a life of faith and service.

Born in 1920 to a family riddled with tragedy, Karol Wojtyla endured the death of his mother, brother and father before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. This sense of loss and the severity of the world war surrounding him, in many ways, led him closer to God and the church. This passion drove him to an underground seminary in Krakow, Poland.

Before the papacy, Wojtyla served God and guided his congregation in Communist-governed Poland. He was known to push the envelope when it came to increasing the number of churches in neighboring Czechoslovakia and having a say in Vatican II - the meetings that modernized the Catholic Church.

The Church greeted him as their leader on October 16, 1978, making him the first non-Italian pope in 445 years. In his 26 years as pope, he continuously made historic landmarks toward peace and reconciliation.

He was a man of papal firsts: the first pope to travel to his communist home of Poland in order to visit a synagogue, the first reigning pope to visit the United Kingdom, Puerto Rico, Egypt, and the Auschwitz concentration camp. His trip to Romania made him the first pope to visit a highly populated Eastern Orthodox country since the Great Schism.

Upon the 84-year-old pontiff's death many international leaders offered their condolences and requested a time of mourning in their nation. Even Cuba, a country steeped in Communism that did not recognize the existence of God until 1992, called for a time of national mourning. Cuban President Fidel Castro declared, "humanity will preserve an emotional memory of the tireless work of His Holiness John Paul II in favor of peace, justice and solidarity among all people."

A spokesman for the Taliban, Abdul Latif Hakimi, said, "we neither express grief nor joy over the death of the Pope. Some of what he said about peace and harmony was worth considering." When the Taliban, a defunct government currently in hiding, finds no fault with you that has to mean something.

Hopefully, in the midst of the frenzy surrounding the his death and funeral, and the selection of his successor, Pope John Paul II will be remembered as a man who took huge steps that greatly affected so many around the globe. I also hope that many people will be inspired to follow his example of strong leadership that takes steps toward social justice and reconciliation.

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