

Family of 16-year-old with CMD won't give up hope for treatment, cure

By Wendy Keeler

Cape 16-year-old Kings Floyd, a junior at Waynflete School in Portland, doesn't let her disease stop her. Kings may have lost the use of her legs five years ago to congenital muscular dystrophy, a progressive disease for which there is no treatment or cure, but she still participates in the school dance program – as a choreographer. Like many 11th-graders, she has started visiting colleges.

But adapting to life with CMD doesn't mean giving up hope for a treatment and cure for the disease. On that front, Kings and her father Tracy will not back down.

"Some day, Kings will be able to gain back some of her muscle loss," Tracy said recently, after he and Kings made a trip to Washington, D.C., where they talked to politicians, including U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, about the need for research into and awareness about the disease. "I don't know how and I don't know when, but I plan to make it part of my life's objective in every way I am able."

Doctors don't always recognize CMD, Tracy said. Congenital muscular dystrophies always cause muscle weakness at birth, but some people with CMD have mental delays and never walk, while others have normal intelligence and lose the ability to walk as they grow older, said Jackie Nelson of Cure CMD, an all-volunteer organization with a mission to optimize care for people with CMD. The nonprofit also seeks to find treatments and a cure for the disease.

When Kings was an infant, her doctors tested her for CMD after recognizing her low muscle tone. At three years old, with



Kings Floyd, front left, who has congenital muscular dystrophy, and her father Tracy recently met with Sen. Olympia Snowe in Washington, D.C., to talk about the need for research for a cure for CMD, and awareness about the disease.

the help of therapy and use of a standing frame, she walked. But by the time she was 11, the disease had taken enough of a toll on Kings' muscles that she lost the ability to walk.

Someday Kings wants to get her driver's license. She also wants to live independently.

"What scares me the most is that I might always have to depend upon others to complete my more challenging goals, like going to college," she said.

Tracy won't stop working for the day when his daughter can live as she hopes.

"In my most imaginative dreams, I would like to see the government institute a NASA-like effort to research the CMDs," Tracy said. "Only with focused efforts on a cure will we be able to come up with one."

Visit www.curecmd.org for more information about CMD and Cure CMD.

Cape residents Patricia Bredenberg and Candice Lee have been named to the board of directors of PORTopera, the only opera company in the state that performs fully staged operas with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. Bredenberg, a geriatric nurse practitioner with a doctorate degree from Syracuse University, has served on the boards of the Thomas Memorial Library, Sexual Assault Response Services and the YWCA.

Lee, an interior designer and a member of the American Society of Interior Designers, is a recent graduate of the French Culinary Institute. She is a former board member of Greater Portland Landmarks and the Portland Stage Company, and she serves on the board of the Victoria Mansion.



Candice Lee



Pat Bredenberg

James and Deborah Croft announce the engagement of their son, David, to Sonia Latendresse, the daughter of Richard and Francine Latendresse of Canaan, Vt.

Dave is a graduate of Cape Elizabeth High School and Wheaton College in Norton, Mass. Sonia is a graduate of Canaan Memorial High School and the University of Maine at Farmington. Both Dave and Sonia are employed by the Cape Elizabeth School Department. A May 28, 2011, wedding is planned in Cape Elizabeth.



Dave Croft and Sonia Latendresse

Cape Elizabeth resident Laurie Trenholm, executive director of the Maine chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, was among about 100 people who celebrated the relocation of the chapter's office from Falmouth to Scarborough at a March 10 open house in the new space.



Laurie Trenholm, left, with Scarborough resident Marilyn Paige, founder of the Maine chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Two Cape Elizabeth students, Blair Griffin and Meredith Riker, were named to the fall-semester dean's list at Simmons College in Boston, Mass.

Kelsey Amanda Treister was named to the fall dean's list at the University of Rochester in New York, where she is a senior majoring in history. She is the daughter of Caryn and Ron Treister and a graduate of Cape Elizabeth High School.

Three Cape lawyers from Verrill Dana were recently recognized by Chambers & Partners, a legal research firm that conducts annual surveys: Matt Caras for bankruptcy, Gregg Ginn for benefits and compensation, and Alexia Pappas for litigation.

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THE 3.8% TAX ON HOME SALES


There has been a lot of talk lately about a new 3.8% tax on home sales. Effective January 1, 2013, a 3.8% tax on income from **all** interest, dividends, rents (less expenses), and capital gains (less capital losses), is intended to help fund health care. Therefore, there is the **potential** a 3.8% tax will be imposed on **some** income generated from **some** homes sales.

For this tax to affect the sale of your personal residence, in which you have lived at least 2 out of the 5 years prior to its sale, you must:

- have a yearly income of in excess of \$200,000 as an individual or \$250,000 as a couple; **and**
- realize a gain on the home's sale in excess of the capital gains exclusion, currently \$250,000 for individual taxpayers or \$500,000 for couples.

Only the amount in **excess** of the capital gains exclusion may be subject to this 3.8% tax, **not** the entire sales price of the home.


Please seek the advice of your attorney and/or accountant.



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