Written by Mike Kelly
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Kris Hagaman is the new volleyball coach at Watauga High. She replaces Kim Pryor, who resigned July 13.

Hagaman attended Appalachian State University on a full volleyball scholarship. She graduated from ASU in 1990 with a degree in Elementary Education.

Hagaman, who is currently teaching at Vallie Crusis, has been named Teacher of the Year on two occasions---in 1994-95 at Cove Creek Elementary and in 2008-09 at Vallie Crusis. She was also named first team All-Southern Conference and to the Southern Conference All-Tournament team in 1987 and 1989.

She holds a number of all-time individual, season and career records at ASU.

Her husband, Mark Hagaman, is the principal at Mabel Elementary School. She also has two daughters playing in the WHS program---Bailey, who is a senior, and Channing, who is a sophomore.

"We feel it's an excellent choice," said Marshall Gasperson, Director of Personnel for Watauga County Schools. "She has the credentials, and the ability to coach at this level. She is also an excellent teacher in the classroom. We feel Kris will be a huge addition to our coaching staff and to the volleyball program."

The WHS volleyball program has been on solid ground for a number of years. Between former coaches Lori Anderson (1994-2000) and Kim Pryor (2001-09), the Pioneers are 347-129. The Pioneers have also produced two second place finishes in the state finals and a Final Four appearance during that impressive stretch.

Hagaman becomes Watauga's second hire in three days. WHS named William "Woody" McKay its new men's soccer coach on Monday to replace Uwe Erhlech, who was victimized by budget cuts.

Volleyball tryouts will be held at Watauga High School August 2-4. For rising 9th and 10th graders, and if your last name begins with A-L, tryouts will be from 9am-11am; if your last name begins with M-Z, tryouts will be from 11:30am-1:30pm. For rising 11th and 12th graders, tryouts will be from 3-5pm.

All players must have an update physical and their parental permission forms completed to compete at the tryouts. All these forms can be found at the main office of the new Watauga High School.