

# New directors join KM Family YMCA

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

On Monday evening, Oct. 18, at J. Oliver's coffee shop, members of the community stopped to meet two of the newest members of the Kings Mountain Family YMCA.

Taffy Allen was hired by the Y more than a month ago to fill the role of wellness director. John Maynard came on board over two months ago as the Y's new sports and aquatics director.

As she was settling into her new role last recently, Allen said she is excited to be a part of the KM family. Although her job may be a bit new, her career path hasn't changed too much. She has worked in the field of health and wellness for years.

The last position she held was the director of the Activate Gaston Program through the Gaston County Family YMCA. This year-round healthy living program is focused especially on health and wellness.

Activate Gaston, part of the Activate America initiative, is a free, web-based community health, fitness and weight management program for Gaston County. Among other objectives, it encourages participants to engage in at least 30 minutes of physical activity five days a week.

At Kings Mountain, she looks forward to working with many programs that zero in on the same keys to healthy living. She recently sat in on her first meeting with the Cleveland County Health Department's

ACHIEVE committee. The Y is a partner in the ACHIEVE Initiative.

ACHIEVE (Action Communities for Health, Innovation, and Environmental change) is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The initiative, with the collaboration of several agencies, looks at ways to increase the healthiness of communities and prevent or manage health-risk factors for common diseases and illnesses, like obesity.

"I'm excited about the opportunity and the challenges lying out there ahead of me," Allen said.

She added that she hopes to continue spreading the message of the importance of healthy living and wellness to the community.

In her role, Allen will be reaching out to the community, through avenues such as the ACHIEVE program and workplace wellness plans. "It's a big job. There's a lot to be done."

But she has a passion for fitness. Allen started teaching group exercise at the Y right out of college.

"One way or another I've always been connected with the Y."

She has been married 24 years to Stephen Allen. Together they have two daughters, Katie who is a sophomore at UNC-Asheville and 14-year-old Mallory. The Allens reside in Gastonia.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts from Greensboro College.

With a degree in performing arts and a background in dance, Allen became an instructor of Zumba in a

dance/exercise craze that has swept the nation in the past few years.

Maynard, the new sports and aquatics director, said that sports has been a part of his life since he was four years old.

Growing up, he became active in tennis, baseball, basketball, soccer and golf.

"I've always wanted to get into sports" as a career, he said.

He graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in Exercise and Sports Science. After college, he worked at the Y in Chapel Hill, coaching aquatics.

He is overseeing six sports, with about 35 participants, going on right now at the KM Family YMCA: softball, t-ball, flag football, youth soccer, baseball and adult softball.

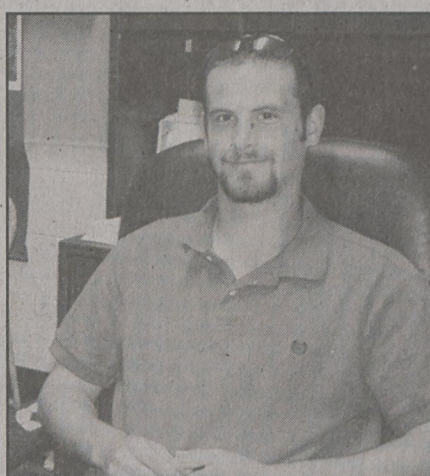
"This is definitely what I want to do."

Maynard added that, even though he's been in sporting arenas for years, he is learning new things about sports he didn't know and his "love of the game" is growing.

"Sports gives you something through childhood that little else can," he said, adding that so many life lessons can be learned on the playing fields.

He said there's something special about working at the Y, where values, integrity and the sportsman-like way to play is just as important as learning how to play and win.

Maynard is also excited about joining the KM family. He was born in Wilson and now resides in Gastonia.



John Maynard sports and aquatics director



Wellness Director Taffy Allen

## Sports briefs

### Wingate to play

#### first playoff game

The Wingate University football team, 8-2 and champions of the South Atlantic Conference, will play its first-ever NCAA Division II playoff game Saturday at 12 noon at home against Morehouse State.

Two members of the Wingate team are Kings Mountain High products Casey Cogdill, an offensive lineman, and Josh Yon, starting defensive tackle. Yon has four solo tackles, 19 assists and four tackles for loss in 10 games.

Wingate head coach Joe Reich will be guest speaker at the Kings Mountain Touchdown Club Football Awards Night Thursday, Jan. 6 at B.N. Barnes Auditorium. The event honors the members of the 2010 KMHS football team.

Reich is Wingate's winningest football coach ever. Heading into Saturday's game the Bulldogs are 65-42 overall in nine seasons under Reich. They were 8-3 in 2008 and 7-3 last season.

### Reynolds, Loftin

#### start in title game

Kings Mountain freshmen Meagan Reynolds and Megan Loftin started for the Gardner-Webb women's soccer team in the recent Big South Tournament championship game against High Point in Radford, VA.

High Point won 1-0 in overtime. GWU had advanced with a 1-0 first round victory over Radford and a 4-2 shootout win against Liberty following a scoreless tie in regulation.

Reynolds was named to the league All-Freshman team. She finished the season with three goals and two assists for a total of eight points, #2 on the team. Loftin had one assist for one point.

## WIPRO: announces plans for company's 11th data center in Kings Mountain

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this year, with plans to attract data centers.

### 'Historic day for Cleveland County'

The governor said the Kings Mountain announcement falls on the heels of the recent announcement by Facebook, the world's largest social networking site, that it will open a data center in Forest City, Rutherford County.

"More than 20 states wanted our site," Kishore said, adding that the company had spent nearly two years shopping for a new home when their sights settled on Kings Mountain.

Both the governor and Kishore said that Wipro selected North Carolina after an "extensive search" to identify a location with the right combination of a technically proficient workforce, access to telecommunications and electrical infrastructure, and favorable operating costs. In August, Wipro purchased the vacant boat manufacturer's building and plans to convert it into a data center that will house their corporate clients' computing operations.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey, county commission chairwoman Jo Boggs, Rep. Tim Moore, and county commissioner Eddie Holbrook praised the teamwork of many people in a vision for new industry to bring jobs to Cleveland County.

"We welcome Wipro, it took a team effort by the county, state and city," said Murphrey. He added that city officials will make the transition for Wipro as easy and as quickly as possible.

An "historic day for Cleveland County," is how Holbrook described the plans for a data center as he recognized the hard work of many to bring the plans to fruition.

"This is my 38th trip to Cleveland County," said Secretary of Commerce Keith Criscoe, "a great moment for Kings Mountain and the county. Cleveland County will embrace Wipro and make you feel like home."

"Kings Mountain is a great town and a town that cares about its people," Moore said. He called the move by Wipro a "new direction" for the Greater Kings Mountain area and said the passage of a NC House Bill (1793) on incentives has paved the way to bring more jobs not only to Kings Mountain and Cleveland County but throughout the

state. "Wipro is a sign that things are getting better and North Carolina is on the radar screen for getting jobs," Moore added.

"Google, Apple and now Wipro. North Carolina continues to be a prime location for growing and expanding global technology companies," Perdue said. "Technology leaders recognize our state's talented workforce, our comprehensive infrastructure and low cost of doing business when choosing to expand operations and making investments to North Carolina."

Kishore said that they recognized them.

### 'Cloud' with silver lining

"At Wipro Infocrossing, we are always looking for ways to increase the value we deliver to our customers," Kishore said. "Our vision for our Cleveland County site is to not only increase our data center footprint but build a facility that brings the best infrastructure technology to our clients. We look forward to becoming a part of the Cleveland County community and tapping into its talented pool of technology experts to build our state-of-the-art data center."

Kristin Fletcher, Executive VP for the Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership, said "Cleveland County has developed a strategic effort to target the growing data center industry and with Wipro's announcement we can finally say that we are now part of the region's information technology corridor. Our available product which has the geographic and infrastructure advantages coupled with our local focus and determination, gives credence to the idea that our county could quite possibly establish one of the largest data center clusters in the region. By recruiting data centers, we are not only diversifying our employment sector, we are preparing for the innovation and technology economy that is already upon us."

Boggs said, "We are excited to welcome the Wipro Data Center to Cleveland County. We appreciate very much the relationship that has been established with this company and look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with them. In these tough economic times that we have endured, companies have continued to find Cleveland County an attractive place to locate. We appreciate the confidence in our citizens that Wipro has demonstrated by choosing to locate in our county."



photos by EMILY WEAVER

Mayor Rick Murphrey, left, welcomes Wipro Infocrossing President Sameer Kishore to Kings Mountain at the industry announcement Monday that the worldwide info tech firm is coming to Kings Mountain.

Wipro plans to construct the data center to meet the Uptime Institute's requirements for a Tier III rating, which defines architecture and redundancy requirements to maintain operations in the event of unplanned system failures. The site will feature multiple levels of security and incorporate "green" technologies designed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification. The data center will support all major computing platforms including mainframe, iSeries, Windows, Unix and Linux server, and will house the company's Dynamically Adaptive Infrastructure cloud computing platform.

"Cloud computing" is like a computerized electricity grid - a network of computers and technology that share information and feed

other devices. Data centers, or server farms, have been popping up across the country to expand the reach of these "clouds".

Google set up its own data center near Lenoir in Caldwell County in 2008. In neighboring Catawba County, Apple Inc. announced last year that it plans to build a \$1 billion facility. And just last week, Facebook announced that it has "friended" Rutherford County with a data center.

Other partners that helped with the Infocrossing Data Center project, codenamed "Project iFox" by county officials in incentives deals, include: the NC Department of Commerce, NC Community Colleges, Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership, City of Kings Mountain, City of Shelby and Golden LEAF Foundation.

## RECYCLING: the message at local schools

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Another student asked, "What can we recycle?"

The list of "please do recycle" items includes: flattened cereal and food boxes, plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, metal cans, office paper, magazines, catalogs, newspapers and inserts, aluminum cans, flattened cardboard boxes.

Recyclables in blue bins will be picked up every other week on your regular pick-up day.

Barnette said there is no need to remove paper clips, stamps, address labels, staples, tape, wire metal fasteners, rubber bands, spiral bindings and plastic tabs. Do flatten all cardboard boxes, and empty and rinse all containers but don't flatten containers.

The mayor said that recycling reduces collection costs because collection can be automated, and collection routes can give service more efficiently. More paper grades can be collected, including junk mail and mixed residential paper.

Barnette said that single-stream recycling is easier for residents, more waste will be re-

cycled and less waste will end up in the landfill. He also noted that in addition to greener practices, there is a potential cost saving as every ton of trash recycled will save Kings Mountain money.

The mayor said that recyclables would be picked up every other week and taken to a recycling point in Gastonia and then to Charlotte via conveyors. Every ton of garbage sent to the Cleveland County landfill costs the City of Kings Mountain \$33, and for every ton of recyclables the city will be credited that same amount.

With all your recyclables collected in one can, Kings Mountain residents can use the second (garbage) can for compostable materials like food scraps, etc., and you don't have to sort things like you've been doing but make sure you're recycling only the items accepted. It is also good for recycling if ever-increasing amounts of materials are kept out of the landfills and sold in good clean condition to the remanufacturing companies that make new products from recycled materials. Single-stream helps to increase this volume of materials, city officials point out.

**Reason To Give Thanks**

Please join us for a FREE Community Thanksgiving Meal

Monday, November 22nd  
4pm - until

Kings Mountain American Legion Bldg.  
613 E. Gold Street

For more information visit  
[www.arisechurch.net](http://www.arisechurch.net)

**Arise Church**