

# Rogers...continued from Page 1A

states to serve as president, so they nominated me," Rogers said.

NOCAD's mission is to generate revenue and provide active support to the member states for the benefit of their high schools' multi-faceted student-related activities and athletic programs.

Currently 40 states from Connecticut to Hawaii are involved with NOCAD.

Rogers' term began with

his election in January and will last until next January's national meeting, which is made up of the Executive Directors of all the member states.

"Every January we hold our national board meeting of all the member states in America, and I'll conduct that meeting," said Rogers, when asked what his job as president entailed. "I will also work with the Executive Director (Phil

Weaver of North Carolina) on issues such as insurance and sponsorship."

Rogers becomes just the second coach from Georgia, alongside Ray Broadway, to be selected as President of NOCAD. The GACA, which dates back to 1938, is the oldest coaches association in the nation. In the 78 years the GACA has been in existence, Rogers is only the fifth Executive Director. He was selected as Vice President of the NOCAD at the 2015 national meeting in Annapolis,

Maryland.

"The Executive Board of the NOCAD meets and they decide who they are going to nominate as president, they nominated me, and I was elected by a unanimous vote."

Rogers served as Union County High School Athletic Director and its Head Football Coach until his retirement in

1994. He took over the head coaching position in 1980 and won a team-record 54 games – a total that wasn't broken until one of his very own former players named Brian Allison passed him in 2012.

Rogers' teams won nine games in 1983 and eight games in 1984 and 1985. He also coached boys and girls basketball at UCHS.

In 1997-98 he led the Union County boys basketball team to a 24-2 record and an 8-A North Sub-Region Championship - in a season that saw the Panthers win 20 straight games.

In 1965 as a player at UCHS, Rogers was named by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as an All State Honorable Mention selection.

# Cruisers...continued from Page 1A

Cop" Christmas program, the Union County Sheriff's Office's annual "Give-a-Gift for Christmas," local scholarships for graduating seniors, as well as the Cruisers own "Shop with a Cruiser," which treats the younger kids to Merry Christmas.

Cruise-ins on the Square take place around the Historic Union County Courthouse and are always the third Saturday of the month, while the Blairsville Cruisers' Cruise-in at the Farmers Market takes place the first Friday of the month, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.



Pete Barley, president of the Blairsville Cruisers, has been busy since February promoting the club and getting things ready for the yearly kickoff of festivities at the Farmers Market.

"We're glad to be out, and we're glad we can still be able to do what we can do for everybody in town, and in the community," said Barley. "We're looking forward to a good year this year. We have some new sponsors this year, and lots of people help us out."

Brad Betters, owner of the Biker Barn off Ivy Log and 129 North, has been a Cruisers sponsor for several years now, and is a partner in putting on a Fourth of July show.

"All the money goes to the local kids," said Betters. "Everybody works all year to raise money by raffling the

car, and all the money goes toward needy families with kids. There are a lot of kids that really need help, and these guys do a great job with helping them out."

Tom Bruce of Blairsville brought his 1966 Ford Mustang, which he's owned for about 10 years now. Bruce is a former president of the Cruisers.

"Over the years I've had other Mustangs, going back to the early '70s, and I used to drag race them," said Bruce. "So I've always been interested in old cars. We just enjoy doing these things for mostly what the club does for kids – the Shop with a Cop and all the good we do in town. That's really our passion. But it's good to get out and talk to people, and it's just a fun thing to do."

This year, the Cruisers kicked off their first event of the season on Friday, April 1, at the Union County Farmers Market. And despite the threat of rain, car enthusiasts and charitable persons alike still showed up to show off or admire the various hot rods, street rods, classics and more.

"I think everybody is glad to get their old cars out and enjoy them a little bit," said Charlie Brown, vice president of the Cruisers.

Of course, this was the first time since October that the Cruisers had hosted the weekly event at the Farmers Market, and everyone was excited to be back in the swing of things.

"We've been members for about five years, but we've been involved with cars for a long time," said Donna Howell, who drove to the show from Young Harris with her husband Steve in their screaming yellow 1931 Pontiac coupe. "The Cruisers also do a Cruise-in twice a year at the Union County Nursing Home, and the residents there vote on all the trophies and everything."

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of building. Sponsored by the UGH Auxiliary (volunteers), to raise funds for student scholarships who are training in a health care related field of study.

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