

# County Meeting...from Page 1A

month that I would like to clarify.

“The budget overages of \$93,369 for vehicles within the Fire Department were for vehicle trade-ins, but mistakenly, we referred to this as being the ladder truck. However, the ladder truck was paid for out of SPLOST funds and did not negatively impact the budget.

“Most of the overage was instead from vehicle trade-ins,

so on the budget, it may show an overage, but it does not take into account any funds credited from trade-ins of older vehicles. In this case, the trade-ins covered most of the overage.”

Paris said a similar issue held true for the June 20 public discussion concerning the budget at the Union County Sheriff’s Office.

“They showed an overage of \$268,530 for vehicle

purchases, but in reality, they received around \$255,000 credit for trade-in vehicles, making the overage only \$13,530,” Paris said. “Both departments had overages this year due to a change in accounting procedures where the trade-in values of all vehicles were lumped together.

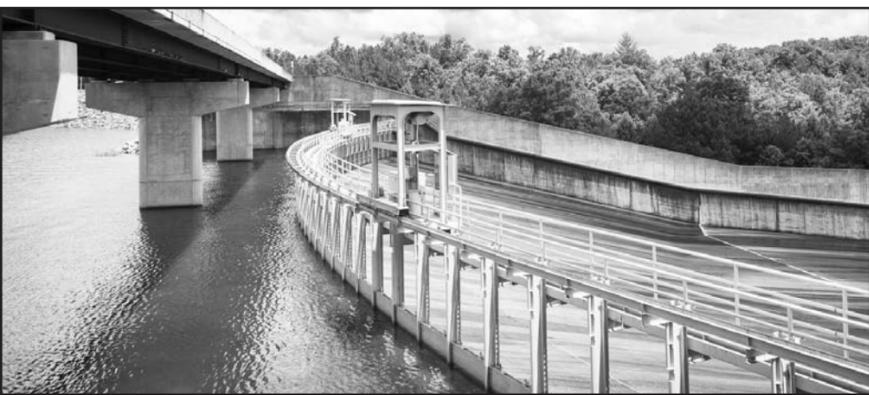
“They are referred to in the audit as ‘Sale of Capital Assets’ but are all lumped together. Our revenue for Sale of Capital Assets also increased in the same amount as the expenditures to show a net of

zero. “Again, this was due to a change in accounting, not to reckless spending by any department. In addition, some vehicles are generally paid out of SPLOST so long as adequate SPLOST funds are available.”

The commissioner said in the Aug. 22 meeting that he hoped his comments would help to clarify the issues surrounding the June 20 budget discussion.

“Our intent was certainly not to make any department look like they were overspending, as our staff keeps an eye on expenditures to let the department know if they see any problems during the year,” Paris said. “We find that all departments in Union County are always very frugal with taxpayer funds.”

# TVA Rates...from Page 1A



Lake Nottely is a Tennessee Valley Authority lake.

Photo/TVA.gov

the IRP recommends.”

The board also approved two actions that will further strengthen the Tennessee Valley public power model. The first is the adoption of a long-term partnership agreement option between TVA and local power companies to better provide competitive rates and the flexibility to meet changing market needs.

A second board-approved initiative modifies TVA’s regulatory policies to provide local power companies options in financing investments to support broadband while maintaining oversight to ensure electric system operations do not subsidize other utility functions.

“For 86 years, our unique public power partnership has successfully served the needs of the people and, as those needs change, we must have the right tools to take advantage of new opportunities,” Lyash said.

In other business, the board approved:

- FY20 corporate performance goals and scorecards that continue to emphasize safety, financial health, operational excellence and economic development.

- Final FY19 tax equivalent payments to the eight states impacted by TVA’s operations that are 4.6 percent higher than FY18.

- Authority for TVA to issue power bonds and enter into other financial arrangements.

- An agreement to provide over 100 megawatts of firm power to an existing directly-served customer.

- Modifications to TVA’s large generator interconnection procedures.

- Changes to TVA’s performance-driven compensation plans to better align with industry standard

metrics and goals.

- Selection of an external auditor for FY20.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power distributors serving nearly 10 million people in parts of seven Southeastern states.

TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity.

In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system, and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.

# Heritage Festival...from Page 1A

earlier days.”

Another large public event taking place over Labor Day Weekend will be the 10th Annual Tractor Show & Parade at the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 31.

This parade consists of tractors new and old alike and is open to the public for attendance and participation.

Those wishing to participate in the parade itself must be at the Farmers Market with their tractor by 8:30 a.m. to get in the lineup and ensure the parade goes as planned.

Spectators will need to be at the Farmers Market by 10 a.m., which is the scheduled time for the start of the event.

Following the Tractor Show & Parade, the Union County Agriculture Hall of Fame will hold an induction ceremony for new members in 2019, serving as a way to offer thanks and show support for the work that local farmers put in to agriculturally benefitting the area.

And though these are the main public events going on during the weekend, families and friends can still get together



The Tractor Show & Parade is always a great, family-friendly event at the Farmers Market. Photo by Lowell Nicholson/2015

for other outdoor recreational activities.

“While we don’t have a whole lot going on festivals wise, we do have a lot of opportunity for people to get out and enjoy hiking, kayaking and the lake,” said Steve Rowe, president of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce. “The lake is still at a good level and boat rentals are still pretty steady.

“These are the activities

that people come here to do, and they are great to take advantage of while the weather is still nice.”

For more information on upcoming events, check out VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

