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aturday, March 12, 2022

## Breaking News

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## Hurt Brothers, Fisherman Jeremy Richardson Were Ketner's Mill Drowning Victims

Sunday, July 19, 2015 - by Emmett Gienapp



Brothers Chris and Lebron Hurt and fisherman Jeremy Richardson were the drowning victims at Ketner's Mill in Marion County on Thursday evening.

Lebron Hurt, 26, was a welder. Chris Hurt was 23 and left behind a daughter.

Jeremy Richardson had four children.

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He was 35.

The funerals will be at Tate Funeral Home in Jasper.

The visitation for all three will be Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. There will also be visitation for Jeremy Richardson on Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m.

The service for the Hurt brothers will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. and for Mr. Richardson will be Wednesday at 5 p.m.

There is one surviving Hurt brother, Charles Hurt.

The powerful current from a low-head dam trapped all three in a cyclical roll, preventing escape or rescue. The third body was recovered a mile and a half downstream at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

Emergency Management Agency Director Steve Lamb said, "It's like being caught in a washing machine."

Despite looking placid from the surface, as water spills over the dam it rolls at the base of the dam, creating a strong and hazardous current.

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According to Mr. Lamb, the Hurt brothers were swimming above the small dam on floats when one got too close and was swept over the top. He realized that he was trapped and called for his brother, who followed him over to assist.

Mr. Richardson was fishing with a friend downstream when he saw both of the brothers go over and rushed to try to save them. He extended a board for them to grab onto, but after realizing it was too short, he dove in and was caught in the current as well.

Volunteers and employees from the TWRA, Whitwell Fire Department, Marion County Rescue, and Hamilton County STARS, along with several others, were still on location Friday afternoon looking for the third body though two were retrieved Thursday night.

Workers searched an area of about one mile downstream, but since it was impossible to get close to the dam without risking injuries or death, an underwater robot was deployed to search the turbulent waters for the deceased.

The incident on Thursday was only a day after a similar situation in which a 34-year-old man was caught in the same undertow. Fortunately, an 18-year-old, Bryan Pruitt was fishing on site and had adequate training from being a Boy Scout to jump in the water and get the man to safety.

Ketner's Mill has been a long time hotspot for locals to spend time with friends and family, fish, or swim, despite the danger of being in close proximity to the dam.



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Mr. Lamb said that at least one person drowns every year near this location or by the dam at Nickajack Lake nearby.

He also said that low-head dams have been an issue all across the country since thousands of them are still in place from when they were used to power gristmills. Everywhere is the same story - dangerous currents created by leftover constructions, he said.

When asked what could be done about furthering public safety, Mr. Lamb said that there is not much that could be done since the waterways themselves are public. There are signs on both banks explaining the danger, but some simply do not take necessary precautions.

EMA hopes to educate the public on potential hazards like this in order to reduce the number of needless tragedies and the organization will be hosting seminar and education sessions in the next several months to that end.

Mr. Lamb had said he and his peers would keep going back as long as it would take to bring closure to the distraught families.



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March 12, 2022

**Police Seek Public's Help In Hit-And-Run Incident In Which 5-Year-Old Boy Was Injured**

Chattanooga Police traffic investigators are seeking assistance from the public in locating an additional vehicle and driver that may have been involved in the incident in which a five-year-old ... (click for more)

March 12, 2022

**Police Blotter: Woman At EZ-Pawn Says Man Touched Her; Brothers Argue Over Card Game**

A woman told police that while she was waiting in line at EZ- Pawn, 5712 Lee Hwy., she felt that an unknown black male touched her rear. She said she turned around and asked the man, "Did you ... (click for more)

March 12, 2022

**PHOTOS: Snow In The Chattanooga Area**

(click for more)



Breaking News

**Police Seek Public's Help In Hit-and-Run Incident In Which 5-Year-Old Boy Was Injured**

Chattanooga Police traffic investigators are seeking assistance from the public in locating an additional vehicle and driver that may have been involved in the incident in which a five-year-old boy was hit. The information is sought in the hit and run/pedestrian struck crash at 101 North Howell Road on Wednesday. Investigators ask anyone who may have witnessed the incident ... (click for more)

**Police Blotter: Woman At EZ-Pawn Says Man Touched Her; Brothers Argue Over Card Game**

A woman told police that while she was waiting in line at EZ- Pawn, 5712 Lee Hwy., she felt that an unknown black male touched her rear. She said she turned around and asked the man, "Did you just touch my butt?" She said the man did not acknowledge her and left the store. She said that there were no witnesses to this and she did not know who the man was. She said she just wanted ... (click for more)

**PHOTOS: Snow In The Chattanooga Area**

**Latest Hamilton County Arrest Report**

**Mayor Kelly Says He Opposes Flammable Sheds, Not Tiny Homes**

**Upcoming City Council Agenda For Tuesday**

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Opinion

**Happy 100th Birthday, Luther**

Happy 100th Birthday, Luther. "Don't forget him. Just don't forget him," Luther's wife Mary (March 28, 1936-June 3, 2021) said to me, just moments after Luther's funeral as she accepted condolences from family and friends on that sad day in October 2014. Luther, "the man with sunshine in his voice," was born on March 9, 1922 and died on Oct. 20, 2014 ( read Luther's obituary ... (click for more)

**Roy Exum: The Saturday Funnies**

Fannie Flagg was born (August 31, 1944) Patricia Neal in Birmingham, Alabama, and spent her childhood in the Birmingham area. Encouraged by her father, Flagg became interested in writing and performing at an early age, writing her first stage play when she was only 10 years old. As a teen, she entered the Miss Alabama pageant, where she won a scholarship to a local acting school ... (click for more)

**Our Police Shouldn't Be A Taxi Service**

**Roy Exum: The Dark Horse**

**My Reason To Vote For Sebrena**

**Do Your Homework**

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Sports

**Tennessee Knocks Off Kentucky To Advance To SEC Championship, 69-62**

Tennessee knocked off Kentucky, 69-62, on Saturday afternoon to advance to the SEC championship against Texas A&M. The Vols enjoyed a double-digit lead through much of the game, but the Wildcats made it interesting at the end by closing to within four points. Kentucky star Oscar Tshiebwe sat out much of the first half after getting into foul trouble, then he picked up ... (click for more)

**Dalton Native Sam Purcell Named Head Women's Basketball Coach At Mississippi State**

One of the most respected recruiters in America and most impactful Division I assistant coaches in the country, Sam Purcell has been named the ninth head coach in Mississippi State women's basketball history, MSU Director of Athletics John Cohen announced Saturday, March 12. "During our search, Sam Purcell routinely emerged as one of the nation's elite recruiters and more ... (click for more)

**"Just Shoot It, Bro" - David Jean-Baptiste And The Mocs Ready For March Madness**

**Mocs Softball Finishes MTSU Invitational 2-2**

**UTC Tennis Team Loses To Nationally Ranked VCU**

**Covenant Softball Splits At Emory**

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## Happenings

**Power Home Remodeling Partners With Warrior Freedom Service Dogs To Give Back To Veteran Community**

**Save Water, Drink Wine Annual WaterWays Fundraiser Set For March 26**

**Women Of Distinction Presents \$75,850 Check To Benefit Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

**Chattanooga Native Starts International Ukrainian Crisis Fund**

**Upcoming Street Closings Announced**

All Happenings Articles

## Dining

**Chattanooga Seafood Company Opens In Red Bank**

**Zarzour's Cafe To Be Featured In "Small Business, Big Heart" Series**

**McAlister's Deli Has Grand Opening In Hixson March 14**

**Marithyme Seafood Company Is Bringing Wild-Caught Seafood To Chattanooga**

**Boneyard Bar Opening On Station Street; Mariscos Vallarta Set For Shallowford Village**

All Dining Articles

## Business

**Tennessee February Revenues Were \$212 Million More Than Budgeted Estimate**

**Chambliss Law Honors UTC Rollins College Of Business Student Leaders**

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## Student Scene

**Ooltewah Middle School Presented With \$1,000 Donation From D9 Fund**

**Dupont Elementary School Receives Grant From American Heart Association**

**Melissa Blevins Selected As GNTC's Adult Education Teacher Of The Year**

All Student Scene Articles

## Church

**Journalist George Burnham's Impact On Chattanooga**

**"Infinite Opportunities From The Ordinary" Series Continues At 1st Baptist Church Of Fort Oglethorpe**

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## Memories

**Charles H. Coolidge Medal Of Honor Heritage Center Has 2nd Anniversary**

**Old Hamilton County Jail Sat In The 600 Block Of Walnut Street**

All Memories Articles

## Real Estate

**Historic Brick Building On East Main Street To Get 16 Residential Units**

**Medical Building Near Hamilton Place Sells For \$26 Million**

All Real Estate Articles

## Living Well

**Healthy Kids Running Series Now Offering 5-Week, In-Person Race Series**

**Morning Pointe Foundation To Present Virtual Seminar On Alzheimer's Caregiving on Thursday**

**The Austin Hatcher Foundation To Host Its First Annual "Monday Before the Masters"**

All Living Well Articles

## Outdoors

**Volunteers Remove 18.3 Tons Of Trash From 4 Rivers In Cherokee National Forest River Cleanup Series**

**2022-23 Fishing Regulations In Effect As Of March 1; New Guide Available**

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