

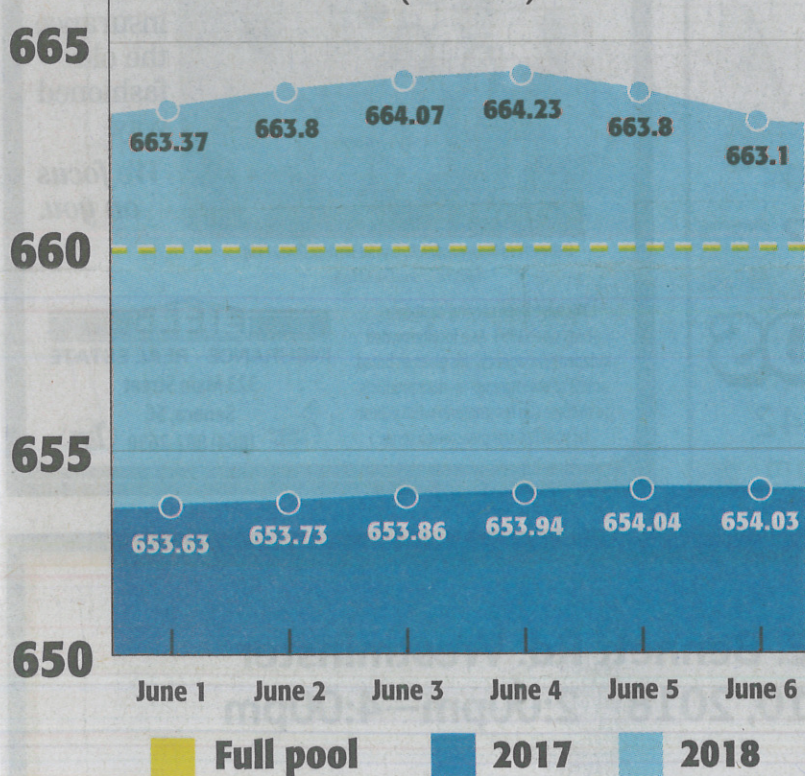
# 'A really good summer'



REX BROWN | THE JOURNAL

Some boat docks in the Chickasaw Point community on Lake Hartwell have water high enough to cover the walkways, making it difficult for people to get to their boats. Lake levels at Hartwell are nearly 10 feet higher than they were a year ago.

## Hartwell lake levels (in feet)



## Local lake levels much higher than normal

BY NORM CANNADA  
THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — The walkways to the boat docks near Norm and Rosemary Bein's home in Chickasaw Point are covered in water from rising lake levels on Lake Hartwell.

"It's been running over, I guess it's been a matter of a couple of weeks," said Norm, who added that water levels he had seen had topped 664 feet — making it a little more than 4 feet over the full pool of 660 feet.

"That's the highest we've ever seen, and we've been here for over 20 years," he said. "We've seen it some

3-plus feet over (pool), which got pretty messy with logs and twigs and so on that get washed up."

The Beins don't have a dock with their neighbors and have their boat on another area of the lake where the water is not over the walkway to the docks.

"Our boat is accessible on the other side — we've been moving it," he said. "But if you don't move it speedily enough, then you're going to find yourself with wet feet trying to get to your boat."

Such is the case on Lake Hartwell, where water levels are up nearly

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# LEVELS: Keowee and Jocassee both near full pool

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10 feet from this time a year ago.

"We are expecting the lake to remain at or above full pool through probably the Fourth of July," said Billy Birdwell, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees Lake Hartwell. "It will decline a little bit then based on our projection, but that could change dramatically based on if we get more rain.

"But it's still going to be a really good summer," he added. "People are going to have a good time on the reservoir this summer. It looks like a very good summer for the reservoir."

Hartwell lake levels have topped 664 feet twice since June 1 and were at 663.1 feet on Wednesday. By comparison, the lake level at Hartwell on June 6, 2017, was 654.03.

Birdwell said being above full pool "is not common." He



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The walkway for a boat dock disappears into the water of Lake Hartwell in the Chickasaw Point community in Westminster on Wednesday.

said the lake was most recently above full pool on May 23, 2016, when the level was 660.46 feet.

The highest level since June 1, 2013, was 664.79 feet on July 9, 2013. The Hartwell levels

reached 664.72 feet on Jan. 4, 2016, 662.67 on Jan. 20, 2014, and 660.73 on April 26, 2015.

At Keowee and Jocassee, lake levels were not quite to full pool this week, but were still above normal for this time of year, according to Duke Energy spokeswoman Kim Crawford.

On Wednesday, both lakes were near their 100-foot full pool, with Keowee at 98.4 and Jocassee at 98.1.

"They're definitely above the normal that you typically see," Crawford said.

Crawford said both lakes were helped by recent rains. Jocassee received 3.3 inches and Keowee 4 inches over a seven-day period.

"What is kind of unfortunate is you get all the rain at one time," she said of the area's recent storms. "These kind of storm events dump so much and you get a lot of runoff, so it's better to have more sustained off and on rain than to have it all happen at one time."

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