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# THE RECORD



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**HOOSICK FALLS**

## Construction on new water transmission line to begin in May

By Record staff

**HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y.** » Construction is starting this spring on a permanent water transmission line to provide a new water source for the village of Hoosick Falls, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced in a press release.

The project is part of a 2023 agreement between New York State and Saint-Gobain and Honeywell to implement the new water supply and address perfluorooctanoic acid contamination from historic industrial operations at the McCaffrey Street facility and other sites in the village.

"No community should have to question the safety of their drinking water, and we're continuing to make important investments to protect New Yorkers and ensure companies are held accountable for industrial contamination," Hochul said in the release. "This milestone brings us closer to healing the community in Hoosick Falls and marks another step in our ongoing commitment to address pollutants."

Officials said the project to secure a permanent water supply for the village involves constructing approximately 6,800 linear feet of raw water transmission line be-

tween a newly developed wellfield and the village of Hoosick Falls water treatment plant. Construction activities will be performed by Honeywell and Saint-Gobain and overseen by the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH).

The water transmission line construction activities are expected to begin in May 2024 and last approximately seven months. Hochul said this new water supply distribution system is part of the State's ongoing efforts to address PFOA contamination from



The Hoosick River runs through the village of Hoosick Falls, where the village water system was contaminated with a reputed cancer-causing substance.

FILE PHOTO

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**EDUCATION**

## BENEFICIAL GUEST

Harmony Hill Elementary School celebrates ten years with therapy dog, Rozie



MELISSA SCHUMAN — MEDIANEWS GROUP

Rozie with her friends in Mrs. Laughlin's fifth-grade class.

By Melissa Schuman  
[mschuman@saratogian.com](mailto:mschuman@saratogian.com)

**COHOES, N.Y.** » Harmony Hill Elementary School has a very special reason to celebrate this school year. It's the tenth anniversary of having the school's therapy dog, Rozie.

Rozie, a golden retriever, is owned by school principal Mark Perry. She's become such a part of the school's culture that the school building is her second home and everyone at Harmony Hill is part of her family. She's got her own Facebook and Instagram pages full of photos of her and her friends.

Typical for a golden retriever, she has a gentle, loving personality and is very protective of the students. When I entered the classroom she was in for the first time, her immediate instinct was to run over and bark. Perry explained that she was telling me, "Hey, person I don't know! These are MY kids and I'm keeping them safe!" Once she knew I was a good person, it was back to lying with the students and keeping an eye on them as they learned.

Also typical for a golden retriever, Rozie loves to play and run. Perry says some of her favorite activities are playing on the playground and spending time with classes who have

earned outside time with her. Students who get to take her outside get a big kick out of how active she is.

"They are just amazed to see her running and playing fetch, and acting like a 'normal dog,' because she's so quiet and calm inside," Perry said. "She's gentle, but funny. She'll chase her tail just to make people laugh, and she feeds off of that energy. At nine and a half years old, she still has zoomies."

Rozie's time at Harmony Hill began shortly after Perry got her just before Christmas in 2014. Her first visit to the school was when she was just six months old. Perry saw a newspaper article about the benefits of therapy dogs in schools. He did some research and found a therapy dog program in the Guilderland school district. After learning a lot about the program, Perry started bringing Rozie to training classes. When she passed her Therapy Dogs International test, she was ready to start working at Harmony Hill.

Since then, Rozie has brought joy to students and staff alike. Perry says that teachers will come into his office before school starts to spend time with Rozie, and students look forward to greeting her at arrival time.



MELISSA SCHUMAN — MEDIANEWS GROUP

Rozie stands next to a table of her toys.

"Every single kid knows her," Perry commented. "I've got high school students coming back to see her."

In her role as a therapy dog, Rozie provides a source of comfort and quiet support to students who need it. She'll listen to students read and sit with them while they work. She can tell if someone is sad or stressed and will go right to them for pets and hugs. She has helped students to overcome their fear of dogs and was a big source of support to one child whose own dog passed away.

Students in Sharon Laughlin's fifth-grade class said that petting Rozie made them feel

better. She's also a great incentive for the students to keep their classroom clean because as the students put it, "she's a vacuum cleaner."

"She will eat anything and everything, especially paper, so we're really good about keeping the room clean," Laughlin said.

Before the pandemic, Perry would also take Rozie to visit Alzheimer's patients at the Eddy, where she would provide the same loving comfort and support — and steal everyone's tissues. These days, as she's grown older, she sticks to Harmony Hill.

"She's really a de-stressor

**GUEST » PAGE 2**

**NEW YORK**

## Questions as Trump deadline approaches

By MICHAEL R. SISAK  
 Associated Press

**NEW YORK** » Donald Trump is hurtling toward a critical deadline in his most costly legal battle to date. If the former president doesn't come up with a financial guarantee by Monday, New York's attorney general can start the process of collecting on the more than \$454 million Trump owes the state in a civil fraud lawsuit.

Trump's lawyers are trying to stop that from happening. They have asked a court to put collection efforts on hold while he appeals the verdict.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee tried getting a bond for the full amount, which would have stopped the clock on collection during his appeal and ensured the state got its money if he were to lose.

But more than 30 underwriters said no, Trump's lawyers told the court. They said getting a bond for such a large sum is "a practical impossibility."

That's raised the possibility that New York Attorney General Letitia James could start trying to enforce the judgment as soon as Monday.

Here's a look at what that might look like, and what it would mean for Trump's business empire.

### COULD NEW YORK REALLY SEIZE TRUMP'S ASSETS?

Yes. If Trump isn't able to pay, the state "could levy and sell his assets, lien his real property and garnish anyone who owes him money," Syracuse University Law Professor Gregory Germain said.

Potential targets could include properties such as his Trump Tower penthouse, Wall Street office building and golf courses. James' office could also seek court permission to drain Trump's bank accounts and investment portfolios, or sell off other assets like his planes, helicopters — or even his golf carts.

Seizing assets is a common legal tactic when someone can't access enough cash to pay a civil penalty.

In a famous example, O.J. Simpson's Heisman Trophy was seized and sold at auction to cover part of a \$33.5 million wrongful death judgment. More recently, a city commissioner in Miami, Florida, fought to keep his home after a federal judge ordered it seized and auctioned off to help pay a \$63.5 million judgment in a political retaliation case.

New York state seized three moving trucks in 1999 to help satisfy a \$250,000 judgment against a company that ripped off customers. In 2006, the state seized a \$342,000 investment account to cover part of a \$2 million judgment against operators of illegal

**TRUMP » PAGE 2**



THE RECORD

**Wednesday**  
**Numbers Midday:** 9-9-3  
**Win 4 Midday:** 4-8-4-8  
**Take 5 Midday:** 6-10-16-20-24  
**Tuesday**  
**Numbers Evening:** 2-5-5  
**Win 4 Evening:** 2-2-8-6

**Take 5 Evening:** 5-10-14-26-38  
**Pick 10:** 8-18-26-27-30-34-36-38-40-45-50-55-56-57-63-64-65-68-77-80  
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Guest

FROM PAGE 1

for the students," Laughlin commented. "She changes our mood — even mine."  
 Irlene Mayo's third-grade students agreed. They talked about how Rozie comforts them and makes them "not feel sad."  
 Laughlin and Mayo's classes get to see Rozie every day, as long as there are no scheduling conflicts. Perry says the students in those two rooms really benefit from her daily pres-

ence. Rozie is also welcome in every classroom at Harmony Hill; all the teachers need to do is schedule time with her through Perry's secretary. The UPK students love playing hide and seek with her, and last year Rozie was able to participate in the fifth-grade promotion ceremony for the first time.  
 When school isn't in session, Rozie still has lots to do.  
 "She has a very full life outside of school," Perry said. "She loves her sister's cat Mow, and she loves going swimming. She likes to play frisbee

and go on long walks."  
 Perry says that the whole school community has changed for the better because of Rozie. Students at Harmony Hill have learned a lot about good behavior thanks to help from Rozie. They have learned from an early age how to behave around a dog, including asking for permission to pet her and being mindful of her tail.  
 "I've had a bunch of teachers tell me she's helped the culture of the building," he said. "It's improved attendance because the kids love her and want to see her. She's

helped teachers to be calm, which helps them do their jobs. She helps the kids to be calm, and when they're calm they're better learners."  
 During fire drills, Perry will walk with Rozie, especially around the younger grades, to show them that if Rozie can stay calm when there are lights flashing and sirens blaring, so can they. Although, Rozie has a bit of an advantage in those situations — she's normally calm and lots of noise doesn't faze her. During a recent school assembly, in front of 450 students

and 60 adults, Perry announced that it was Rozie's ten-year anniversary with the school. As the entire room went nuts with cheers and applause, Rozie didn't even blink.  
 It's not just the students and staff who appreciate Rozie. School parents are supportive of her and just as happy to see her at Harmony Hill as some of the students.  
 "I think because I've invited the parents to be part of her life, we've never had any issues," Perry mused. "I'm always fully transparent with her and I think that's helped. In the packet that goes

out at the beginning of every year, I include information about Rozie so the parents know who she is."  
 As Rozie settles into her golden (retriever) years at Harmony Hill, she'll continue to be a source of calm and comfort for the school community. Perry says she'll keep coming to school as long as she's able to do so in good health.  
 "It's really been a great ten-year run," Perry said. "Rozie is an asset. We all benefit from her."  
 Follow Rozie on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Miss-RoziePerry>.

Water

FROM PAGE 1

the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street Superfund site.  
 DEC worked closely with the community to evaluate water supply options and ensure the new groundwater source was located outside of the contaminated aquifer and fully compatible with the water treatment plant's capabilities, officials said. The granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration system the State required the responsible parties to install on the village's water treatment system to remove PFOA will remain in use to further safeguard the system.  
 "From the first days of my tenure at DEC, we have worked hand-in-hand with the Hoosick Falls community to address the contamination, protect public health and hold the polluters accountable for cleaning up their mess," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said in the release. "The start of construction of this new drinking water source is a critical milestone for this commu-

nity and the result of extensive, science-based efforts by DEC, DOH, and the Hoosick Falls community. DEC is grateful for our many partners in this work, including Mayor Rob Allen, Supervisor Mark Surdam, members of the Citizens Participation Working Group, school district officials, Rensselaer County, and many others.  
 "I also applaud our team of DEC and DOH experts who worked hard to secure this outcome for the Hoosick Falls community and continue to lead the nation in responding to the threat of emerging contaminants," he continued.  
 State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonold said in the release, "Under the leadership of Governor Hochul and thanks to the collaboration of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Health, and our local partners, the people in this community are getting a safe, clean and reliable water source. The Department will continue to collaborate with our partners to monitor and prioritize public health and to

ensure that safe drinking water is available to the Hoosick Falls community for years to come."  
 In 2016, PFOA was detected in the village of Hoosick Falls' public drinking water supply and the town of Hoosick's private drinking water wells above the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory level at that time of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), officials said. The presence of PFOA in groundwater is linked to past manufacturing sites in the Hoosick area.  
 PFOA is part of a group of compounds called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Under DEC oversight, the release said the companies installed a GAC treatment system at the village water treatment plant to eliminate the community's exposure to PFOA contamination and undertook additional response actions as described below.  
 In 2021, DEC issued the Saint-Gobain — McCaffrey Street Record of Decision (ROD) to provide a permanent water source to address PFAS contamination in the village water supply.

Officials said as part of the State's commitment to ensuring residents in the Hoosick Falls village water system continue to have access to clean and reliable drinking water, DEC's ROD incorporates findings from the Municipal Water Supply Study and public comments received on the State's Proposed Remedial Action Plan to select a groundwater source outside of the contaminated aquifer, in addition to the continued use of the GAC.  
 In a \$45-million agreement with DEC in 2023, Saint-Gobain and Honeywell are required to implement the new water supply for the Hoosick Falls village water system that serves approximately 4,500 people. The estimated cost for this phase of construction and implementation is approximately \$5.5 million.  
 The agreement also holds the companies accountable for \$30 million in past costs incurred by state taxpayers, \$5 million in natural resource damages and future costs related to operation and maintenance of the new water line and GAC filtration, the release said.

The GAC treatment system installed in 2017 removes PFOA and other PFAS from the drinking water supply.  
 Additionally, DEC installed and maintains hundreds of point-of-entry treatment systems for individual homes in the surrounding area, including in the town of Hoosick. DEC continues to require Honeywell and Saint-Gobain to identify and address the sources of PFOA contamination in this community.  
 "Construction of the new water transmission lines to our new water supply is an important step and major milestone for the Village of Hoosick Falls," Hoosick Falls Mayor Rob Allen said in the release. "We are very grateful for the work done by the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health and Governor Hochul and her office. It stands as a shining example of a unified effort, linking our community together with local and state government, to develop a new water source and to respond to the PFOA contamination. Everyone involved should be very proud of the work done thus far."  
 "Since the discovery of

PFOA contamination in water wells in 2016, New York State has been a constant presence in our community, helping to answer questions and address concerns of residents while taking immediate steps to ensure our drinking water is safe," Town of Hoosick Supervisor Mark Surdam said in the release. "We appreciate the support and commitment of New York State, including Governor Hochul and the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health, who have made protecting the health of Hoosick families a priority."  
 DEC and DOH will continue to provide Hoosick area residents with information and updates regarding ongoing remediation efforts, the release said. In addition, State agencies continue to engage the Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group to discuss the progress of the PFOA cleanup.  
 Additional information and documents regarding state actions underway in the Hoosick Falls area are available on the DEC website.

Trump

FROM PAGE 1

ture dumps.  
 COULD IT HAPPEN SOON?  
 Not likely. State officials can't just padlock Trump Tower. Any attempt to collect would be done through such legal actions as liens and foreclosures. But the state could lay groundwork by subpoenaing Trump for information about his assets.  
 James, a Democrat, recently told ABC that if Trump can't pay, her office "will ask the judge to seize his assets."  
 WHY DOES TRUMP OWE THIS MONEY?  
 The state, through James' office, sued Trump in 2022, alleging he had committed fraud for years by inflating his wealth on financial statements given to banks and insurance companies in connection with various business deals.  
 In February, after a 2½-month trial, Judge Arthur Engoron ordered Trump to pay \$355 million plus interest, saying, "The frauds found here leap off the page and shock the conscience."  
 Trump denies any attempt to deceive banks or anyone else about his wealth. He has said the judge's decision and the lawsuit itself were politically motivated attempts to keep him from reclaiming the White House in 2024.

of dollars in value, billions of dollars in properties. But they'd like to take the cash away so I can't use it on the campaign," Trump said after voting in Florida's Republican primary.  
 "We'll see how the courts rule on it," he said.  
 COULD TRUMP PAY IF HE WANTED?  
 Trump says he is worth several billion dollars, but much of it is tied up in his real estate holdings.  
 He reported having about \$294 million in cash or cash equivalents like stocks on his most recent publicly available financial statement, but that document is outdated, covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. It's also one of the documents Engoron deemed fraudulent for exaggerating Trump's wealth.  
 Since then, Trump has netted nearly \$187 million from selling the lease on his Washington, D.C., hotel and the rights to manage a New York City golf course. His current cash position is unclear. During his civil fraud trial, he said he had more than \$400 million in cash, but that is unverified.  
 Trump has other legal bills. In January, a jury ordered him to pay \$83.3 million for defaming writer E. Jean Carroll after she accused him of sexual assault. Trump secured a \$91.6 million bond this month to guarantee that judgment

while he appeals.  
 Trump's lawyers said freeing up cash by offloading some of Trump's properties in a "fire sale" would result in massive, irrecoverable losses.  
 ARE THERE OTHER WAYS TRUMP COULD RAISE THE MONEY?  
 Trump could receive a financial windfall from a looming deal to put his social media company, Trump Media & Technology Group, on the stock market under the symbol DJT.  
 If the deal is approved at a shareholder meeting Friday, Trump would own at least 58% of the shares in the company, which runs his Truth Social platform. Depending on share price, that could be worth several billion dollars, though he might not be able to turn the stock into cash immediately.  
 Meanwhile, the amount Trump owes is increasing by nearly \$112,000 each day due to interest. As of Tuesday, he owed the state nearly \$457 million.  
 To obtain a bond, Trump's lawyers said they would be required to post collateral covering 120% of the judgment.  
 Last month, Trump's lawyers proposed posting a \$100 million bond, but a judge in the state's mid-level appeals court said he had to pay the full amount. Trump has appealed that decision.

COULD TRUMP DECLARE BANKRUPTCY?  
 Under federal bankruptcy law, enforcement of the judgment would be paused if he personally declared bankruptcy. However, he would still be personally liable if just his company, the Trump Organization, or other entities were to declare bankruptcy.  
 Trump has repeatedly bragged that he has never, personally, declared bankruptcy, although several of his previous companies have.  
 "If he can't post a bond or meet the appellate division's bonding requirements, then I would expect him to file bankruptcy to take advantage of the automatic stay on collection," law professor Germain said.

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