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Watertown Daily Times

BRIEFLY

Ogdensburg nursing home hires a new administrator

OGDENSBURG — A nursing home here has appointed a new administrator.

Colleen Steele, the former head of nursing at United Helpers, will head up St. Joseph's Home, 950 Linden St., according to the facility's Board of Managers.

Mrs. Steele is replacing Robert Lesperance, the interim administrator. Mr. Lesperance took over the facility in May, when Andrew E. Peterson stepped down to take over at LutheranCare, near Utica.

The 82-bed, \$12 million, 70,000-square-foot facility moved to its Linden Street location in 2006.

Mrs. Steele lives in Heuvelton with her husband, David, and two children. She earned her license in nursing home administration in 2009. She will begin work on Monday.

"I am excited about joining the St. Joseph's team," Mrs. Steele said. "I am committed to working with the staff in carrying out the mission of St. Joseph's Home. We will continue to provide quality of care for residents and support to their families."

Slavin project asbestos job in Massena gets six bids

MASSENA — Six bids were received for asbestos abatement and demolition at the Slavin and Shulkin Furniture and Jewelry buildings.

The lowest bid came from Richardson & Sons, Potsdam, at \$274,000.

The remaining bids were submitted by Empire Dismantlement Corp., Grand Island, \$327,000; the Massena branch of New York City-based LVI Services, \$378,000; Sunshine Environmental Service, Waterville, \$462,500; Dakota Environmental Services LLC, Boonville, \$492,000, and J.E. Sheehan Contracting Corp., Potsdam, \$500,000.

Project Manager William B. Plant said he will make a recommendation at the village Board of Trustees meeting Tuesday night on which company should be awarded the contract.

14th annual auto show going on today in Massena

MASSENA — More than 27 classes of vehicles will be judged during this year's 14th annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the Robert Moses State Park picnic area.

The vehicle classes include everything from Corvettes and classic cars to older model vehicles, trucks and motorcycles, according to Greater Massena Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michael J. Gleason.

LOCAL PARAGRAPHS

■ PARISHVILLE — The Parishville-Hopkinton Central School District Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the cafeteria.

■ CANTON — Democrats will caucus at 7 p.m. Sept. 2 at the municipal building to nominate candidates for town and village offices in the Nov. 2 election.

SATURDAY LOTTERY

Daily Numbers: Midday 3, 8, 6 Lucky Sum: 17
Evening 5, 7, 1 Lucky Sum: 13
WinFour: Midday 6, 9, 1, 3 Lucky Sum: 19
Evening 9, 6, 5, 9 Lucky Sum: 29
Pick 10: 7, 12, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 41, 45, 47, 50, 53, 54, 56, 63, 66, 71, 74
Take 5: 6, 8, 10, 17, 23
Lotto: 8, 13, 28, 30, 33, 36 Bonus: 6
Powerball: 9, 33, 36, 50, 58 Powerball: 31

Donovan: I have no gubernatorial interests

ATTORNEY GENERAL RACE: Republican wants to go to Albany to tackle public corruption, Medicaid fraud

By **BRIAN KELLY**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

State attorney general candidate Daniel M. Donovan says he has no interest in using the position to launch himself to higher office.

The Republican candidate

said that promise essentially depoliticizes the office, freeing him to tackle "the number one issue facing our state": public corruption.

Mr. Donovan, Richmond County's district attorney, has pledged not to run for any high-

er office while serving as attorney general and for at least two years after leaving office. Former Attorney General Eliot L. Spitzer was elected governor while serving in the office and current Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo is now running for governor.

"If people think that AG stands for aspiring governor, I have removed that concern for the people of our state," he said. "I want people to know and have faith that every decision I make is right for the people of our state, and not be-

cause I was seeking higher office."

Mr. Donovan said public corruption, by both elected officials and within state agencies, has crippled the state's business cli-

See **DONOVAN B2**



NORM JOHNSTON ■ WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

Matthew A. Doheny, on the football field where he used to play for Alexandria High School, was also a student-athlete in college.

A PLAN COMES TOGETHER

23RD DISTRICT RACE: Doheny says parents instilled desire to serve

By **ROBERT BRAUCHLE**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

ALEXANDRIA BAY — As Sandra K. Doheny sat waiting for her hair appointment at a friend's salon on Margaret Avenue in the village, she casually watched the small television across the room. A "breaking news" event then interrupted the scheduled program.

The day was June 2, 2009, and President Obama was announcing his pick for Secretary of the Army, the north country's own congressman, John M. McHugh.

Mrs. Doheny's hair could wait. She promptly left her friend's home and drove to her High Street home a few blocks away. As she rushed to open the front door, she could hear her phone ringing, as if on cue.

Just as she expected, it was her son, Matthew A. Doheny. The political moment they had discussed many times was now unfolding.

"We had talked about when Mr. McHugh might retire," Mrs. Doheny



THE RACE FOR THE 23rd District

GOP candidate Douglas Hoffman was featured July 25. U.S. Rep. William Owens, D-Plattsburgh, will be featured in a future story.

said. "We had thought it would be 2012, but as soon as I saw it on the news, I knew I'd better get home because he would be calling."

His son has never held elected office outside of college, but Mr. Doheny has had his eye on Congress for more than two decades, say family and friends. They all say it was just a matter of time that Mr. Doheny would seek the congressional district seat that includes 650,000 residents living in 181 towns and six cities, stretching over all or portions of 11 counties.

"The district had a titan in John McHugh," said Mr. Doheny, "and when the opportunity presented itself when he was named Secretary of the Army, I knew I wanted to take advantage of it."

Mr. Doheny first made his political intentions publicly known a year ago when he sought Republican county committee support to be the party nominee for the special election to fill Mr. McHugh's seat. However, Assemblywoman Dierdre K. Scozzafava received the Republican nomination early in the summer.

See **DOHENY B5**

Regional approach may aid businesses

CENTERSTATE CORPORATION: Newly-formed group aims to boost economy in 12 counties

By **NANCY MADSEN**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Two Syracuse-based business organizations have merged in an effort to represent businesses across 12 counties.

The Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and Central New York, which represented the 200 largest companies and institutions in Central New York, and the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce completed the move in May to become CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity.

"The reason for this is that for a region to compete in the global economic environment, businesses need to tap into the re-

sources not of one city, but of a region," said Kevin Schwab, vice president for communications at CenterState. "This region can go toe to toe with anyone in the country or the world."

Bringing a business to Ithaca should make economic developers in the north country happy because it could mean growth for the entire region.

"Opportunities spring out of those — opportunities to be suppliers or research partners," he said.

The area covered includes Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties and runs from the St. Lawrence River to Tompkins

See **BUSINESS B2**

HAMMOND BARN BURNS See story, B4



JASON HUNTER ■ WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

A lone Morrystown firefighter passes through heavy smoke from a barn fire Saturday afternoon at the Bertram farm, 967 County Route 6, Hammond. Firefighters from a dozen departments battled the blaze.

THE RACE FOR THE
23rd District

Doheny at ease in classroom, locker room

Left out of a three-way race among Mrs. Scozzafava, Conservative candidate Douglas L. Hoffman and Democrat William L. Owens, Mr. Doheny sat on the sidelines, although he supported Mrs. Scozzafava with a \$2,400 donation, the most allowed to be given by an individual to a candidate.

This year, he is one of the three seeking the seat. Mr. Doheny will need to fend off Mr. Hoffman, who became an icon of the national Conservative movement last fall, in a Sept. 14 Republican primary. And only then can he square off against Mr. Owens to try to win the job he has wanted for two decades.

Matthew Doheny, 40, whose solid build and sharp-as-a-tack approach to topics stand out immediately upon meeting him, grew up with his brother, Mark, in the close-knit village of Alexandria Bay. His parents owned a modest home, the same home his mother still lives in.

Jeffrey D. Cooley remembers walking daily to Mr. Doheny's home where sports were a mainstay.

"Whether it was hockey or football or golf or anything else, we were always playing," said Mr. Cooley, who today is a case worker for Monroe County. "As a kid, we used to almost live at his house. There was pretty much a core of six to 10 of us that would hang out. No matter where you wanted to go in Alex Bay, you were always within walking distance, so kids from the neighborhood would come over all the time."

Mr. Doheny, who was a budding hockey goalie, said sports, like academics, instilled in him a simple mantra: preparation breeds success.

"The district had a titan in John McHugh, and when the opportunity presented itself when he was named Secretary of the Army, I knew I wanted to take advantage of it."

Matthew A. Doheny

"If you stop 500 biscuits (pucks) during (hockey) practice, 40 or 50 isn't going to look so hard during a game," he said. "It's work ethic. The harder you want to work, the better prepared you're going to be when it counts."

Mr. Cooley remembers the hard work, but he also fondly recalled the teasing Mr. Doheny took because he wore protective glasses during games.

"He was a goalie and he'd have to wear these rec specs, which were these thick, bubbly glasses," Mr. Cooley said. "He'd have on the rec specs during (games) and they were always fogging up. People were running around calling him 'Recs.'"

Working for success was a constant theme in the Doheny home.

"The boys grew up with the upbringing that if they want things to happen, then they need to make sure it happens," said Mrs. Doheny, while sitting in the living room where she raised her sons. "I've always told them to live to their fullest potential."

Politics was infused into Mr. Doheny at a young age. Mrs. Doheny, a Republican, was a stalwart of Alexandria Bay politics for decades and her husband, Richard, was registered under the Conservative party.

Mr. Doheny said politics has always been in his blood, although his mother said, "I've never told them what they need to do in terms of politics and getting involved. That's for the Kennedys."

But Mr. Doheny recalls chatter around the dinner table focused on school, sports and politics.

"It was either the news, a game or Ronald Reagan on the TV," said Mr. Doheny, who was 10 years old when Mr. Reagan became President.

Mr. Doheny's father died from a heart attack in October 1994, when he was attending Cornell University's law school.

"He was a great man," Mr. Doheny said. "Unfortunately, he went to work one day and never came home. We have a very close family; it was hard."

The elder Mr. Doheny, a regional representative for a Dallas-based chemical company, spent much of his career on the road, working in many of the towns in the 23rd Congressional District.

"My parents never took a vacation," Mr. Doheny said. "There was no waste in our household. They worked very hard."

Mr. Doheny said his parents were living examples of making a community better.

"Whether my mom was on the school board or on the village board or my father with T-ball, my parents were always an example of how to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Matthew A. Doheny credits the work ethic he learned playing sports with helping him succeed in his career. In high school at Alexandria Central School District, he played goalie starting for the varsity ice hockey team. At Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., Mr. Doheny played free safety on the varsity football team that won a Division III title in 1990.

get something done when you felt it was best," he said. "My parents were always politically minded and public service was always something in our house."

Alexandria Bay is a tourist village where the night lights of bars, bands and partying can easily lure youths away from career goals.

Mr. Doheny's family and friends say such excesses never steered him away from his ambitions. And they say that his single-mindedness in pursuing his dreams is the reason they are not surprised he is running for the congressional seat now held by Mr. Owens, D-Plattsburgh.

By several accounts, Mr. Doheny's eye for future elected office began at an age when most guys walking the halls of Alexandria Central High School were thinking about girls and another summer on the river.

"He's an unforgettable student," said Paul A. Sayyeau, Mr. Doheny's high school French teacher and adviser for the National Honor Society. "He was a very serious student. He had a sense of humor, but he always wanted to be first and be the best."

Mr. Sayyeau remembers Mr. Doheny admonishing other students he believed were not doing their best in class.

Both sports and political ambition followed Mr. Doheny throughout school.

Mr. Doheny graduated from Alexandria in 1988 and attended Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., that fall. He took the talent he grew on the rinks and fields of Alexandria Bay to the collegiate level, playing goalie on the hockey team and free safety on the football team, both for four years.

In 1990, his football team won the national Division III championship. He also served as student body president for two years.

"I have nothing but positive things to say about Matt," said Daniel F. Sullivan, the former president of Allegheny who most recently retired as the president of St. Lawrence University, Canton.

Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Doheny met regularly to discuss student issues.

"He was not just an outstanding student leader, but also a student-athlete," Mr. Sullivan said. "He's one of those kids you want to go out of your way to help."

Even then, Mr. Doheny's conservative views were well known at Allegheny.

"I think it's a good thing for the north country that he's running," said Mr. Sullivan, "but if we were talking politics, we would definitely be on opposite sides of the spectrum."

Mr. Doheny debated politics during summer jobs he held in college docking boats and helping sightseers at the now-defunct Empire Boat Lines, said a former co-worker.

"There were always a lot of discussions about politics," said Aaron S. Capone, Watertown. "Matt's a good guy. He was driven even at an age when guys were thinking about partying and girls."

Twenty years later, Mr. Capone said he remembers Mr. Doheny telling him his plans to earn a college degree, go to New York City and make money, and then return one day to the north country and run for Congress.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Said Mr. Doheny: "For me, going to New York meant I was going to get out of debt as quickly as possible. That was my goal."

After completing law school at Cornell University in Ithaca, Mr. Doheny clerked for law firms in Syracuse and New York City. During that time, Mr. Doheny made weekend drives back to Alexandria Bay to visit his recently widowed mother.

In New York City, Mr. Doheny said he lived in cramped apartments with roommates to save money. He worked as a corporate lawyer, and eventually dropped law to work in business.

"He was not just an outstanding student leader, but also a student-athlete. He's one of those kids you want to go out of your way to help."

Daniel F. Sullivan

Former president of Allegheny who most recently retired as the president of St. Lawrence University, Canton.

"I just didn't love law," he said. "I was successful at it, but it just wasn't for me."

Mr. Doheny eventually landed as an investor at Deutsche Bank Securities in 2000.

He lived throughout Manhattan, renting apartments in the Murray Hill, Kips Bay and Yorkville neighborhoods.

"Some of the people I met in New York were outstanding," he said. "I had some good times and made once-in-a-lifetime friends."

Saving money in New York, and earning seven-figure salaries have helped him build a small fortune for his campaign, in which he is facing equally well-heeled opponents.

Mr. Owens earned more than \$4 million in 2009 through his law practice and maintained heavy investments in NBT Bank, the congressman's personal financial disclosure shows.

Similar forms show Mr. Hoffman earned about \$380,000 for accounting fees last year and more than \$500,000 in dividends and business income from various companies he is affiliated with.

Mr. Doheny reported \$830,555 as a base salary last year from Fintech Advisory Inc., 215 Washington St., as well as a \$6,124,864 "performance fee."

His Fintech office in Watertown is nothing more than a reception room with a dorm-size cooler, a small conference room and a back office that holds stacks of newspaper clippings, a three-screen computer and some sports memorabilia.

The small, nondescript office, he said, is largely for personal use. Most of his business is on the road.

"I'm an everyday guy from the bay," he said. "Have I made a lot of money so far? Yeah, you bet, but everything I've earned from working hard."

The green he's earned restructuring companies has helped him buy a pair of neighboring islands on the St. Lawrence River that guard the mouth of Goose Bay.

"As soon as I had two nickels to rub together, I knew I wanted to get something the family could enjoy," he said.

He purchased Caprice Island in 2007 for \$335,000 and Shamrock Island in 2003 for \$360,000, property records show.

The islands, his mother said, were more of an investment than a spot buy. Property, after all, is more stable than say, stocks and bonds, especially in an economy that shows few signs of stability.

Mr. Doheny recently walked around Shamrock Island, a 1.2-acre haven with a boathouse, outdoor basketball court and a picturesque view of the river, with his girlfriend, Marie E. Reidy. The pair inspected stairs and railings that

THE DOHENY FILE

Name: Matthew A. Doheny

■ AGE: 40 — birthday July 16, 1970

■ WORK: Portfolio manager at Fintech Advisory, 2008 to present; Deutsche Bank, New York City, 2000-08; also previously worked at Hancock & Estabrook, Syracuse, and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP and Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, both in New York City.

■ FAMILY: Brother Mark, in Texas, mother Sandra K., in Alexandria Bay.

■ RESIDENCE: 303 Paddock St.

■ EDUCATION: Graduated from Alexandria Central High School, 1988; bachelor's degree in political science from Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., 1992; juris doctor degree in business law from Cornell Law School, Ithaca, 1995.



Doheny

needed replacing and praised landscaping put in this year.

Ms. Reidy, a New York City-based lawyer who specializes in corporate bankruptcy restructuring, makes the occasional trip up to the north country with Mr. Doheny.

Caprice Island, a 2.2-acre neighbor, is where Mr. Doheny is building another five-bedroom home for himself. The property, he said, had nothing more than a one-bedroom house, trees, and the staircase that once led to a home that stood on the island decades ago when he purchased it. He had architects incorporate that staircase into the footprint of the new home.

"He has a passion for this," Mrs. Reidy said. "To say he works 16 hours a day is an understatement."

For Mr. Doheny, who thinks fast, speaks fast and can change conversation points in a flash, eating isn't always a sit-down event.

That was the case on a recent day as he entered the Irecks Subs restaurant in Alexandria Bay. Within seconds, Mr. Doheny was chatting with patrons and fist-bumping cashiers. He ordered a pair of six-inch subs, jokingly lamenting that he hasn't found a sandwich he doesn't enjoy.

Irecks, Alex Bay, the St. Lawrence River — they are all part of the reason Mr. Doheny left New York City, friends said.

"I think he's always been driven to come back home," Mr. Cooley said. "For the longest time he was always telling me that he wanted to come back, that Alex Bay is where he wanted to be."

Mr. Doheny said his permanent residence is in Watertown at 303 Paddock St., which he bought in 2006. His home is about three blocks from his downtown Watertown campaign headquarters, a three-room office in the HSBC Building, 120 Washington St.

Mr. Doheny said he choose the obscure location, accessible by a service elevator, to save money. Besides, the office will primarily be used by his staff, not the public, he said. The brunt of his campaigning will be done from the driver's seat of "Bessy," Mr. Doheny's 1994 Ford Explorer.

"We've done something like 900 miles in a single day," he said. "We're going 16 hours a day, seven days a week."

The odometer, he said, will not stop spinning if he is elected. Mr. Doheny vowed he will visit all 181 towns and six cities in the congressional district annually, to catch up with constituents' concerns.

North country residents are worried about runaway government spending, Mr. Doheny said. That is why he always pushes his business background when he campaigns.

"I'm a true conservative and the facts are the facts," Mr. Doheny said. "Right now I'm trying to articulate my positions and let people know what I stand for. I grew up on High Street in Alex Bay, I drive a '94 Ford Explorer and I work very hard for what I have. I'm not different from the people of the district I want to represent."

"I believe my skill set works well with this particular office," Mr. Doheny said, adding that his knowledge of financially unstable companies will help fix the "economic crises our country is facing today."

That campaign issue resonates with Republican leaders.

"I support Matt because he will support north country issues, no matter how local, when he's in Congress," said Franklin County Legislator Paul A. Maroun, who initially campaigned against Mr. Doheny, seeking the Republican nomination himself. "I support him because I only support winners. Matt has traveled a lot to Tupper Lake and I know he's a winner."

"We have the most liberal speaker in the House that I've ever seen," Mr. Maroun said. "Matt will go to Congress and tell them that the people of this district don't have those liberal views."

For Mr. Doheny, going to Capitol Hill to voice the north country's concerns is his idea of giving back to the region.

"The idea of public service has always been pressed upon me," he said. "I've always believed that I should go out and make something of myself, but then to also give back to your community."