

**LI People
ON THE MOVE**

LAW



Louis B. Imbroto of Plainview, an Oyster Bay town councilman, has joined the **Rizzuto Law Firm** in Uniondale as an associate attorney.



Seth L. Berman of Long Beach has been hired as a partner in commercial litigation at **Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone** in Lake Success. He was a partner at Nixon Peabody in Jericho.



Laura Mulholland of Massapequa Park has been hired as an associate in commercial litigation at **Rivkin Radler** in Uniondale. She was an associate at Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone in Lake Success.

REAL ESTATE

Coach Realtors in Dix Hills has two new sales associates, below, from left.

Gretchen Perkins of Huntington completed a licensing course at Long Island Real Estate School/NYREI in Syosset.

Hasan Sultan of Dix Hills recently completed a licensing course online at Real Estate U.

— DIANE DANIELS



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SHOOTINGS 'A HEALTH CARE EPIDEMIC'

BY DAVID REICH-HALE
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The CEO of Long Island's largest health system called gun violence in the United States "a health care epidemic."

Michael J. Dowling, president and chief executive of Northwell Health, said in a phone interview that laws should be passed that make it harder for Americans with mental health issues to buy a gun.

"There is no perfect solution to any of this, but to have anyone with certain depression tendencies to be able to buy a gun doesn't make sense," Dowling said Thursday, a day before another U.S. mass shooting, which killed 10 in Santa Fe, Texas. "Screening should be unbelievably strengthened."

The American Public Health Association and American Association of Nurse Practitioners have also called gun violence an American health crisis, while other health care organizations have called for more restrictions on who can purchase a firearm.

About 38,000 Americans are killed by gun violence annually, according to the American Public Health Association, a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying group.

"The issue of gun violence is complex and deeply rooted in our culture, which is why



HOWARD SCHNAPP

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— Michael J. Dowling, CEO, Northwell Health

we must take a public health approach to ensuring our families and communities are safe," the association wrote in a statement. "Ongoing work is needed to ensure firearms do not fall into the wrong hands."

The National Rifle Association has pushed back on claims that gun violence is a health care issue.

"Gun control supporters in the public health field claim that gun violence is an epidemic, but gun violence is alien to most people's experiences and the nation's murder rate has been cut by more than half since 1991, and in 2013 fell

to perhaps an all-time low, as Americans' firearm acquisitions have soared," the NRA wrote in a statement.

David Burnett, a law student at the University of Akron who is also a registered nurse in northeast Ohio and a member of the NRA, added it would be wrong to take away a person's right to bear arms based only on being on anti-depression medicine.

"Depression is increasingly being diagnosed, and I don't view it as a reason alone to take away a person's right to defend themselves," he said. "A single mom with two kids who

has just gotten out of an abusive relationship should be able to defend herself if the ex-husband comes after her. If she is on antidepressant medicine for a short time, she should still be allowed to protect her family."

Dowling said better controls would also cut down on suicides. About 22,000 gun deaths involved people who took their own lives, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, which added that about half of suicide deaths are from firearms.

"We should be able to prevent this," Dowling said.

Chembio to work with Mass General

BY JAMES T. MADORE
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Chembio Diagnostics Inc. will develop diagnostic tests for typhoid and other fever illnesses with Massachusetts General Hospital, officials announced Tuesday.

The Medford-based manufacturer of rapid tests for Ebola, Zika, malaria and other diseases said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Boston hospital to develop tests for individuals with fever symptoms.

Chembio's testing technology will be combined with the hospital's disease markers to detect the presence of illness.

Chembio CEO John J.



John J. Sperzel, CEO of the diagnostic firm in Medford

NEWSDAY / JOHN PARASKEVAS

Sperzel said there are 21 million cases of typhoid-related illness each year, claiming 222,000 lives worldwide.

"Through this collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital, the nation's largest hospital-based research program, we aim to reduce the incidence of disease globally," he said.

About a year ago, Sperzel's life was saved at the hospital when he received a heart transplant after being diagnosed with a rare disorder, giant cell myocarditis. "The donor heart came in the nick of time because I was down to a week or so left to live," he said in October 2017.

Dr. Edward Ryan, the hospital's director of global infectious diseases, said Tuesday that the collaboration with Chembio could "have huge clinical and public health im-

plications, not only assisting in the clinical care of patients, but also in understanding [the] regional burden of disease" around the world.

He and Chembio's chief scientist, Javan Esfandiari, said the new tests will hopefully reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics, which leads to the development of drug-resistant organisms.

They also said the tests will lead to the early diagnosis of hard-to-detect illnesses such as malaria, typhoid fever, dengue, leptospirosis, Zika and typhus.

The announcement came before the stock market opened. Chembio shares closed up 5 cents, at \$8.90 on the Nasdaq stock market.