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Erie Times-News

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Breanna Trabert, 27, holds her baby son, Oliver Wellington, in June as she recovers from a severe amniotic fluid embolism at Allegheny General Hospital. PROVIDED BY BREANNA TRABERT

CRITICAL CARE

Mom nearly dies due to rare, severe birth complication

David Bruce Erie Times-News | USA TODAY NETWORK

Breanna Trabert’s scheduled cesarean section was proceeding perfectly until moments after her son, Oliver Wellington, was born June 12. As nurses at AHN Saint Vincent suctioned mucus from the newborn’s airway to help Oliver breathe better, Trabert complained about chest pain. The 27-year-old Springfield Township woman’s blood pressure then plummeted, her pulse slowed and her heart stopped beating regularly. She also started bleeding profusely from her uterus. “It was a complete cardiac pulmonary collapse,” said Dr. Ellen Hancox, the Saint Vincent obstetrician who performed the C-section. “We had to start chest compressions on Breanna.”

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“They also brought Oliver in and I just tried to focus on him. It was just about trying to focus on a joyful moment and not break down.” Justin Wellington Father

Hertel & Brown defendant says he trusted the ‘wrong people’

Ed Palattella Erie Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK

Travis W. Litz’s first and last jobs in physical therapy were at the Erie-based Hertel & Brown Physical & Aquatic Therapy. He started as an unpaid intern while in college, then worked as an unlicensed technician from 2012 until 2017, when he got his degree as a physical

therapy assistant. He stopped working at Hertel & Brown, and stopped working in the physical therapy field altogether, in 2021. That was the year he was indicted on fraud charges in U.S. District Court in Erie along with Hertel & Brown as a corporation, owners Aaron W. Hertel and Michael R. Brown and 17 other employees. Litz, 38, said he wished he would have ended his job at Hertel & Brown

before the indictment. “I should have known better,” Litz said in court on Aug. 4. “I should have gotten out earlier.” Litz expressed his regrets at his sentencing before U.S. District Judge Susan Paradise Baxter. She sentenced him to two years of probation and ordered him to pay \$264,386.68 in restitution.

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ERIE CITY COUNCIL

Code of conduct amendments rejected

Kevin Flowers Erie Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK

Erie City Council’s code of conduct rules will remain unchanged for now. City Council on Aug. 5 voted 4-3 against adopting new rules for its members, proposed in the wake of Councilman Ed Brzezinski misgendering council’s president and fellow Democrat Tyler Titus at a June 9 meeting. Besides Brzezinski, council members Andre Horton, Marilyn Pol and Maurice Troop voted against giving first-reading approval to amendments of an existing ordinance regarding council’s rules of conduct. Titus and colleagues Jasmine Flores and Kathy Schaaf voted in favor of the amendments, which stated, among other things, that council members at all public meetings should “observe the rules of decorum” and refrain from “abusive, threatening, intimidating or demeaning” conduct towards any fellow council member or member of the public. Under the proposed amendments, council members who violate those rules could have been required to make public apologies; face formal censure; by fellow councilmembers; and/or had their speaking privileges suspended during meetings. The new rules would not have suspended/limited a member’s right to vote. One of the proposed amendments also would have reduced the

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