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LOCAL MAN REUNITES WITH CITY HOSPITAL TEAM WHO SAVED HIM

Brandon Babbish lived through a 'widowmaker' heart attack



Brandon Babbish hugs RN Giovanna Zola who started CPR on him while he was having a heart attack on Dec. 20, 2025. Zola and other personnel at LVH-Hazleton played a role in saving his life. PHOTOS BY JOHN HAEGER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Kent Jackson
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HAZLETON — Lori Menighan drove her partner, Brandon Babbish, to Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton, parked in front of an ambulance and yelled to the crew: "He's having a heart attack."

Kevin and Kimberly Doran, a husband-and-wife team, hurried from the ambulance to check on Babbish.

He looked gray, and they gave him nitroglycerin before he lost consciousness.

"We grabbed his lifeless body out of the car and put him on a stretcher," Kevin Doran said.

Giovanna "Gia" Zola, a nurse who had been in the emergency room, jumped on the stretcher and started cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"My 'Grey's Anatomy' moment," Zola said.

Inside the ER, the team hooked Babbish to a defibrillator.

"They shocked him twice," Kevin Doran said. "He looked up at me and said, 'What happened?'"

On Wednesday Babbish returned to the hospital, walking through the doors this time,



Babbish meets LVH-Hazleton and EMS staff who played a role in saving his life on Wednesday. Babbish had a heart attack on Dec. 20, 2025 and arrived at the hospital where ESM personnel Kevin and Kimmie Doran were flagged down to help get him into the ER.

to thank the workers who saved him on Dec. 20.

"That guy looks familiar," Babbish said while pointing to Kevin Doran and starting to shake hands.

"I'd like to thank you. There's so many people to thank," Babbish said while Menighan, at his side, started to cry.

Later he said he felt overwhelmed while meeting his caregivers and reminiscing

I'd like to thank you. There's so many people to thank.

— BRANDON BABBISH, heart attack survivor

about his emergency.

Babbish felt good that morning and started driving to an early Christmas celebration at Menighan's home in Butler

Twp., but he experienced chest pains on the way. When the pain persisted even after he lay down at her house, Babbish thought he was having a heart attack.

"I knew to take aspirin from my dad and sister," who had survived heart attacks," Babbish said.

Menighan wanted to call an ambulance, but he thought

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IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Luzerne County Council debates response

Members offer variety of opinions on proposed resolution

By Michael P. Buffer
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WILKES-BARRE — For Luzerne County Councilwoman Dawn Simmons, the Trump administration's immigration crackdown is personal.

"My own brother, while he was not born here, he is naturalized, and he has a green card, served in the Army for two decades minimum," Simmons said at Tuesday's council meeting. "ICE picked him up, put him in a detention center as a veteran. He had to fight tooth and nail to get out and keep him here."

It happened a year and a half ago in New Jersey, Simmons said after the meeting. Her family is from Antigua, and her brother, 64, is now a U.S. citizen.

"They're taking citizens too, so I don't know. I'm afraid for him. I'm afraid for myself," Simmons said.

Council members offered a variety of opinions at Tuesday's meeting on a proposed resolution to express concern over federal immigration enforcement. Council members also

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CARBON COUNTY

Police pursuit leads to officer involved shooting

By Gregory Adams
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A vehicle pursuit in Kidder Twp., Carbon County, resulted in an officer involved shooting Tuesday.

The Pennsylvania State Police Fern Ridge Barracks were notified of a vehicle pursuit on state Route 940 near White Haven and state Route 534 at approximately 8:15 p.m. that involved municipal police.

Through an investigation, it was found that officers from the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department (PMRPD) tried to initiate a traffic stop on a vehicle. The driver fled in the vehicle leading police on an eight mile pursuit.

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