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CYRIL WECHT • 1931-2024

NATIONALLY RENOWNED PATHOLOGIST AND FORMER DEMOCRATIC LEADER



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Allegheny County Coroner Dr. Cyril Wecht speaks to media about a murder case in East Liberty and a case of two brothers shot by police in Idaho in 1997. The pathologist conducted more than 20,000 autopsies during his career and consulted on post-mortem exams for another 40,000.

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Cyril Harrison Wecht, a long-time and occasionally polarizing fixture in Allegheny County politics whose forensic expertise was sought in thousands of cases from that of a slain president and another involving a murdered beauty queen to nursing home deaths and industrial accidents, died Monday. He was 93.

Cut from the cloth of a bygone political era, Dr. Wecht's flair and unwillingness to mince words made him what many considered a larger-than-life figure in Pittsburgh and in the legal, medical and political worlds.

"To me, Cyril always had sort of a veneer of immortality. It seemed like he would never die — he was always larger than life," said Jerry McDevitt, a friend and attorney who represented Dr. Wecht during a criminal trial in the 2000s. "In a way, he was immortal because of what he's done, because of his life and career. He's one of the

His criticism of report on JFK's assassination consumed much of his career, which included stints as county coroner, commissioner and Democratic party chair

leading figures in Pittsburgh history.

"He just lived a life that's the envy of everybody," he said.

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In this October 1999 photo, Dr. Cyril Wecht waves to the crowd lining Fifth Avenue while he marches in the annual Columbus Day Parade with his son, David Wecht, and Nathan Wecht, David's 11-month-old son. David Wecht is now a Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice.

HUSH MONEY TRIAL

Cohen claims to connect Trump to plot

By Michael R. Sisak, Jill Colvin, Eric Tucker and Jake Offenhartz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump was intimately involved with all aspects of a scheme to stifle stories about sex that threatened to torpedo his 2016 campaign, his former lawyer said Monday in matter-of-fact testimony that went to the heart of the former president's hush money trial.

"Everything required Mr. Trump's sign-off," said Michael Cohen, Mr. Trump's fixer-turned-foe and the prosecution's star witness in a case now entering its final, pivotal stretch.



Cohen

In hours of highly anticipated testimony, Cohen placed Mr. Trump at the center of the hush money plot, saying the then-candidate had promised to reimburse the lawyer for the money he fronted and was constantly updated about behind-the-scenes efforts to bury stories feared to be harmful to the campaign.

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City may have violated ethics code

Former employee was being paid via PayPal

By Hallie Lauer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

One of the men allegedly connected to multiple incidents of harassment and ethnic intimidation on the North Side is a former Pittsburgh employee who has been receiving payments from the city that may violate city policy and could potentially violate the state ethics act, according to internal correspondence between city leaders obtained by the Post-Gazette.

Mario Ashkar, 36, of Perry South, was arrested last week on multiple charges of ethnic intimidation, criminal mischief, theft by unlawful taking and disorderly conduct regarding an alleged antisemitic incident in April in the Mexican War Streets.

SEE **ETHICS**, PAGE A-2

City in talks over project in Bloomfield

By Mark Belko
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Five months after an O'Hara developer challenged a city zoning ruling that blocked plans for a six-story apartment building and grocery in Bloomfield, a settlement could be in the works.

Disclosure of a possible resolution came in an Allegheny County Common Pleas Court consent motion related to the appeal Echo

Realty filed after the Pittsburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment rejected the variances it needed for the project.

The motion involved a request to extend the deadlines to file briefs in the appeal. They were due May 6.

In making the request, Brittany M. Bloam, an attorney for Echo, stated that the parties "continue to engage in negotiations to resolve this appeal." She did not elaborate.

Neither she nor Kevin McKeegan, another Echo attorney, could be reached for comment Monday. Daniel P. Craig, attorney for Bloomfield Development Corporation, which intervened in the appeal, declined comment, saying he was not authorized to speak. The community group supported the development with conditions. Also involved is the city law department, acting on behalf of the

zoning board and the city. It's not known whether the negotiations involved a change in the size of the project, which opponents maintained was too big, or some other type of settlement.

Echo proposed building a six-story structure with 248 apartments at the former Shursave site on Liberty Avenue near the Bloomfield Bridge. The complex

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