

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Tax official's donors scrutinized

Board of Review member seeking sixth term rakes in cash from appeals industry

By **A.D. Quig**
Chicago Tribune

As Larry Rogers Jr. vies for his sixth term on the Cook County Board of Review, he's raised most of his campaign cash from property tax interests and others who have done business before the

obscure but influential panel, and among them is the Chicago Bears' lawyer in the team's high-profile dispute over the value of its possible stadium site in Arlington Heights.

The \$135,000 Rogers has collected in the last year from professionals involved in the busi-

ness of appealing property taxes has become a flashpoint in the proxy fight between him and Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, who's backing Rogers' opponent in the March 19 Democratic primary.

Rogers in 2004 joined the board that considers appeals of property assessments handed down by Kaegi's office, making Rogers the board's longest serving member. In that time, he has repeatedly tapped people tied to the real estate tax

industry for political contributions. State campaign records show Rogers has collected more than \$800,000 from property tax attorneys, appraisers and consulting firms just in the last 10 years.

While the contributions are legal, accepting money from people with business before the board has long been criticized as an inherent conflict of interest. Rogers also has run into issues with accepting campaign contri-

butions from people in the property tax appeal industry when ethics officials dinged him in 2018 for accepting contributions from law firms and other businesses that challenge assessments beyond annual fundraising caps.

In an interview last week with the Tribune, Rogers defended accepting the campaign cash and said, as an attorney, his donor pool

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People flee Wednesday after shots were fired at a parade for the Kansas City Chiefs. **ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/GETTY-AFP**

Shots fired at KC Super Bowl rally

1 person killed, 8 children among 22 hit by gunfire

By **Nick Ingram and Heather Hollingsworth**
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Eight children were among 22 people hit by gunfire in a shooting at the end of Wednesday's parade to celebrate the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl win, author-

ities said, as terrified fans ran for cover and yet another high-profile public event was marred by gun violence. One person was killed, identified by her radio station as a DJ.

Kansas City Police Chief Stacey Graves detailed the shooting's toll at a news conference and said three people had been taken into custody. She said she has heard that fans may have been involved in apprehending a suspect but couldn't immediately confirm that.

"I'm angry at what happened today. The people who came to this celebration should expect a safe environment," Graves said. Police did not immediately release any details about the people taken into custody or about a possible motive for the shootings. Graves said firearms had been recovered but did not specify what kind of weapons were used.

"All of that is being actively investigated," she said.

It is the latest sports celebra-

tion in the U.S. to be marred by gun violence, following a shooting that injured several people last year in Denver after the Nuggets' NBA championship, and gunfire last year at a parking lot near the Texas Rangers' World Series championship parade.

Social media users posted video of police running through a crowded scene as people scrambled for cover and fled. One video showed someone apparently

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Woman accused of human trafficking

Allegedly preyed on 4 immigrants by taking wages, issuing threats

By **Clifford Ward, Chloe Hilles and Nell Salzman**
Chicago Tribune

A Highland Park woman has been charged with human trafficking for exploiting four immigrants by such means as taking their work earnings, keeping their food under lock and key, bathing a toddler in cold water to control his sleeping habits and sending threatening messages to relatives in Mexico, according to Lake County authorities.

Gladys Ibanez Olea, 34, of the 500 block of Onwentsia Avenue, was charged with eight counts of human trafficking, prosecutors said.

Authorities said Olea arranged in July for the illegal immigration of a 19-year-old woman and her 2-year-old son, along with a 22-year-old woman and her brother, 15, and then took advantage of them.

Prosecutors said Olea promised housing, safety and jobs, but instead took possession of the immigrants' money, identification and more. The adults were forced into jobs to pay off their "debt" to Olea, authorities said. She allegedly created a fake ID for the 15-year-old so he could get a job.

Olea forced the immigrants to give her the money they earned, prosecutors say. She also

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INSIDE

It's next year already for Cubs and Sox

There are shades of '04 as Cubs open camp waiting on that someone special, writes Paul Sullivan. Plus, Dylan Cease focused on season, not trade talk. **Chicago Sports**

Some ride-share drivers strike

About 100 ride-share drivers gathered at O'Hare to protest working conditions, but lack of a widespread strike meant riders had no trouble getting rides. **Business**



Ted Beyer visits the grave of his son, Russell Beyer, on Tuesday at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Aurora. Russell Beyer was one of five victims in the mass shooting at the Henry Pratt warehouse in Aurora on Feb. 15, 2019. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Memories, pain remain 5 years after shooting

Five were killed at Aurora warehouse in 2019

By **Denise Crosby, R. Christian Smith and Steve Lord**
Chicago Tribune

Today is the fifth anniversary of a day in Aurora that is difficult to remember, and impossible to forget.

Shortly after 1 p.m. on Feb. 15, 2019, a disgruntled employee upset over a disciplinary hearing opened fire on people in the hearing at the Henry Pratt Co.

warehouse on the near West Side, killing four of them — Russell Beyer, Clayton Parks, Josh Pinkard and Trevor Wehner, according to officials.

After leaving the room, the employee shot and killed Vicente Juarez, who was on the loading dock, officials said. He shot a sixth employee who survived, and then the shooter took off into the warehouse where he would

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High **42** Low **26**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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