

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Why did the chicken with a broken wing cross a Chicago road? To be rescued, it turns out, by an Irving Park man who is one of hundreds with coops in the city



Tim Norris tries to catch a chicken in his backyard on Nov. 15 in Chicago. Norris has 16 chickens. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

CHICK MAGNETS

By **Rebecca Johnson**
Chicago Tribune

Tim Norris’ 16 chickens enjoy free rein in his Irving Park backyard when he lets them out of their coop in the morning. A few perch on chairs or the fence on his porch, others meander through the Joe-Pye weed plants and a rooster named Buffy plops himself in a hole for a dust bath.

While the group tends to stick together, a young red hen named Annie avoids the rest, preferring to snack on the green plants beside Norris. He asks in a soothing voice if he can pick her up, before plucking some of the dirt and grime out of her feathers. She has a broken wing.

Annie is the newest — and probably most action-packed — addition to Norris’ flock. A woman found her wandering on a road in Lincoln Square last month, picked her up to save her from traffic and found her a new home with Norris. He’s one of likely hundreds across

“I’m probably a little crazy. But cash isn’t a huge problem right now, and it’s just a commitment. I picked her up and said I’d take care of her, so I’m just going to do it.”

— *Tim Norris, of Chicago, who helped rescue a chicken in likely need of thousands of dollars in surgery to fix a broken wing*

Chicago who keep pet chickens.

“They’re fascinating little animals,” said Norris, 68. “They’re like friendly dinosaurs, each one has its own personality. They’re just fun to watch.”

‘Complete pandemonium’

While Karen Olenski was driving down Western Avenue after work on Oct. 30, she spotted Annie standing in the road, looking confused as cars drove by her. Without thinking, Olenski said she pulled into the center lane and jumped into traffic with her right hand up to stop the oncoming cars.

Olenski, having no prior experience with chickens, struggled to grab Annie, who started to run away. Olenski said she was eventually able to scoop her up with her arms, and hold her close as she flapped around, while carrying her back to the car.

Turn to Chickens, Page 2

Rare, misplaced books became mystery for one library to solve

By **Peter Breen**
Chicago Tribune

On an evening walk in North Center back in early March, Sparky — Robert Miller’s golden brown mutt that weighs 35 pounds and has hunting dog in its DNA — seemingly caught a scent.

“She’s a creature of habit,” said Miller, a retired 75-year-old who has lived in the neighborhood for about a dozen years. “She likes to stay on one side of the street, and for some reason, she wanted to cross over.”

A half a block later, the duo stumbled upon a stash of strewn books.

“It was about 8 o’clock at night. It was dark. It was winter. And I looked around, and there was not another soul around,” Miller said.

As luck would have it, Miller studied history in college and knew what he was looking at: German books from the Renaissance and early modern period. The oldest, he would later learn, was from 1525. Three were written in Latin, three in German and one in French.

Horried that the books would get damaged, dirty and damp lying in such proximity to a city street all night, Miller scooped them up for safekeeping.



Newberry Library curator Suzanne Karr Schmidt on Friday displays two rare 16th-century books that were donated by a collector who had misplaced them on the street. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

He couldn’t fathom how the delicate vessels of knowledge got stranded on the sidewalk. He wondered whether they had been discarded by thieves who failed to profit off them without provenance — ownership history of valuable objects. Perhaps an irritated lover in a moment of passion took a partner’s books and chucked them outside after a domestic dispute.

Eight months later, a clue dug up by a

Newberry Library curator poked fatal holes in both of Miller’s hypotheses. Miller had reached out to the library for guidance, and a bit of sleuthing by the curator, Suzanne Karr Schmidt, led to a neighbor of Miller who collects rare books.

The neighbor, an octogenarian who hasn’t retired, was “tidying up some old

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ELECTION 2024 ANALYSIS

Rhetoric is fueling belief in mandate

Trump’s ‘landslide’ claims meant to strengthen ability to push agenda into action

By **Peter Baker**
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — On the night he won a second term, President-elect Donald Trump rejoiced in the moment. “America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate,” he boasted. In the more than two weeks since, his campaign has repeatedly heralded his “landslide,” even to market Trump merchandise like the “Official Trump Victory Glass.”

But by traditional numeric measures, Trump’s victory was neither unprecedented nor a landslide. In fact, he prevailed with one of the smallest margins of victory in the popular vote since the 19th century and generated little of the coattails of a true landslide.

The disconnect goes beyond predictable Trumpian braggadocio. The incoming president and his team are trying to cement the impression of a “resounding margin,” as one aide called it, to make Trump seem more popular than he is and strengthen his hand in forcing through his agenda in the months to come.

The collapse of Matt Gaetz’s prospective nomination for attorney general Thursday demonstrated the challenges for Trump in forcing a Republican Congress to defer to his more provocative ideas.

While Gaetz, a former Republican member of Congress from Florida, denied allegations of attending sex and

Turn to Trump, Page 6

■ New attorney general nominee Pam Bondi is a longtime ally of President-elect Donald Trump. **Nation & World**

Midwest hub for hydrogen energy scores \$22M award

But community concerns persist for one project site

By **Karina Atkins**
Chicago Tribune

After more than a year of negotiations, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded a multistate alliance of private and public entities \$22.2 million to advance hydrogen energy use in the Midwest.

This is the first of four multimillion-dollar cash infusions totaling \$1 billion that the Midwest Alliance for Clean Hydrogen expects to receive over the next eight to 12 years. It will use the money to build a “clean hydrogen hub” composed of eight hydrogen production and distribution projects spanning Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Iowa.

Hydrogen is an efficient and flexible energy carrier that can be produced with zero to near-zero carbon emissions. It’s been poised as a promising tool to decarbonize heavy industries such as steel and long-haul transportation that have struggled to part from fossil fuels and are heavily concentrated in communities such as Little Village and East Chicago.

Yet, days before the Wednesday funding announcement, activists gathered in East Chicago’s Tod Park to protest one of

Turn to Hydrogen, Page 4

The return of whooping cough

A minor outbreak at CPS’ Lane Tech High School signals that rates of infection have returned to pre-pandemic levels, according to health experts. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Howard Brown must pay \$1.3M

Chicago health center has agreed to pay \$1.3 million to staffers who the National Labor Relations Board alleged it laid off illegally, the agency said Friday. **Business**

‘You lose a bit of confidence’

While Blackhawks center Connor Bedard is mired in the longest goal drought of his young career, linemates and coaches try to get his offense on track. **Chicago Sports**

