



MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE Los Angeles Times

DAEL WILCOX with two of his goats in his L.A. backyard. An Animal Services officer said he and a colleague wanted to seize all five of Wilcox's goats but managed to get only two because of Wilcox's "aggressive behavior."

L.A. got his goats. So he sued

After complaints about Dael Wilcox's animals, the city took two of them. He tried to get them out and then went to court.

By NOAH GOLDBERG

In the hills of Elysian Heights, among the blond weeds, a quintet of goats graze lazily, munching on seemingly anything in their path.

It's a pastoral scene in the middle of the city. The Elysian Heights hills are some of the steepest in Los Angeles — with roads up to

32% grades — and they're perfect for the mountain-loving goats. But recently this idyllic overlook became a scene of drama and chaos, with two of the goats snatched off the hills by authorities who claimed their owner was allowing the "aggressive" animals to roam untethered and near residences, breaking the law.

The sudden seizure led to a flurry of legal filings as the

owner, Dael Wilcox, struggled to repatriate his animals before they were put up for adoption by the city Department of Animal Services. Parts of the story were first reported by the Eastsider L.A.

Even as Wilcox sued the city over what he saw as goatnapping spurred on by unhappy neighbors, city officials clapped back with a restraining order. Wilcox was

accused of shoving a Department of Animal Services worker and trying to storm an animal shelter to regain custody of his expropriated goats. He denies the allegation.

"I feel I'm at war," he said. Although Wilcox said he'd had good interactions with Animal Services in the past, he feels the "bad apples" — the two officers who [See Goats, A10]

New COVID vaccine on way amid summer surge in cases

Health experts urge taking the shots ahead of winter respiratory virus season.

By RONG-GONG LIN II

New COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be available as soon as this week, a promising development amid California's potent and enduring summer wave of the disease.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the distribution of the updated Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for the 2024-25 season on Thursday. And in preparation for winter, when COVID typically surges again, federal officials said Americans will soon be able to register to receive four free tests in the mail.

Major retailers — including CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Ralphs, Vons, Pavilions, Albertsons and Safeway — are already accepting appointments for the new vaccines or soon will. Kaiser Permanente expects to begin administering the shots by mid-September and possibly earlier in some locations.

The new vaccines have been reformulated in hopes of providing optimal protection against the most commonly circulating coronavi-

rus strains, a process that can be comparable to development of the annual flu shot.

The arrival of the latest vaccines comes amid a surprisingly powerful summer COVID wave — the strongest in terms of infections since 2022. Increased circulation of new hyperinfectious subvariants has sickened many Americans, ruined vacations and weddings and forced people to miss work.

Coronavirus levels in wastewater are considered "high" or "very high" in 45 states, including California, as well as in the District of Columbia.

This year, some of the coronavirus subvariants that succeeded last winter's dominant strain were collectively nicknamed FLiRT — a play on some of the technical terms for their mutations. That group included a strain officially known as KP.2.

A successor subvariant, KP.3, had a different mutation and so was nicknamed FLuQE — pronounced "flake." An even more contagious subvariant, KP.3.1.1, had a mutation that was deleted, giving it the unofficial moniker deFLuQE, or "deflake."

For most people, September and October are the best months to get vaccinated [See Vaccine, A6]



ARIEL SCHALIT Associated Press

A WOMAN in the doorway of a damaged house in north Israel on Sunday after an attack from Lebanon.

Israel, Hezbollah claim victory in intense attacks

By NABIH BULOS

BEIRUT — Israel launched what it called preemptive strikes into Lebanon early Sunday to thwart an attack by the militant group Hezbollah, which still managed to lob hundreds of rockets and drones targeting military sites deep in Israeli territory.

It was the heaviest round of fighting between the two sides since the tit-for-tat conflict began last fall, and each claimed victory while insisting it didn't want a full-scale regional war.

A strike force of some 100 Israeli warplanes attacked southern Lebanon before 5 a.m. local time. Observers said Israel conducted more than 40 strikes targeting at least a dozen villages and towns as well as forested areas that Hezbollah has been using as cover for its operations.

Minutes later, Hezbollah launched some 340 rockets

and drones targeting more than 11 military sites, according to the group. Its leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, said in a televised speech Sunday that the attack was meant as vengeance for Israel's assassination last month of Hezbollah senior military commander Fuad Shukur.

The effect of the Israeli strikes on Lebanon remains unclear, but the Lebanese ministry of health said three people were killed and that the attacks had caused extensive damage to water and electricity infrastructure.

The Israeli military said one naval soldier died after being wounded by shrapnel from an Iron Dome interceptor missile, according to reports in Israeli media.

Soon after the launches, Hezbollah issued a statement saying "the first stage" of the attack had ended in "complete success," while Israeli officials touted the effectiveness of the strikes in [See Attacks, A4]

'A broken market' for U.S. child care

Parents want Harris, Trump to prioritize affordability. Here's where the candidates stand on a systemic overhaul.

By JENNY GOLD

Child and family policies have catapulted to a prime spot in the presidential race as Kamala Harris promotes a new care economy for working families and former President Trump touts his past record.

"We see a future with affordable healthcare, affordable child care and paid leave. Not for some, but for all," Harris told a crowd at the American Federation of Teachers convention in Houston, days after she became the presumptive Democratic nominee.

The Democratic Party platform, released right before the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, in [See Child care, A5]



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

THE ISSUE of affordable child care has long received bipartisan support. Above, staff help children at Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach.



MICHAEL CONROY Associated Press

WHAT NOW FOR JAMES?

After his gold-medal showing at the Olympics, the Lakers must do everything they can to support their superstar, Bill Plaschke writes. **SPORTS, D1**

16 states sue over citizenship path

Republican coalition files suit over program to give immigrant spouses of citizens legal status. **NATION, A5**

Landslide looks to have worsened

Rancho Palos Verdes learns that devastating land movement could affect a larger area. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather Sunshine.

L.A. Basin: 89/64. **B5**

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