

KRYSTAL WOO, a manager at an English kindergarten who moved to South Korea from Los Angeles in 2015, holds her infant son as her husband, Lim Jong-jin, carries their older son in their apartment in Anyang

Korean Americans pack up to return to their homeland

They grew tired of the state of things or just longed to go back. But some feel met by a 'forever foreigner mentality.'

By Max Kim

SEOUL — John Tae-yu Kim arrived in the United States in 1990 as a 30-yearold seminary student from South Korea — only to quit his studies in a spell of

He eventually married, started a family and became an American citizen. Drifting from Baltimore to Anaheim, he worked at a fish shop, a deli, an ice factory and a painting company before settling in Seattle. where he opened a teriyaki restaurant. Then, before he knew it, he was 60.

Three years ago, he and his wife moved to South Korea, where he vowed to never again do manual labor.

"I always wanted to return," said Kim, 63. "There's a certain stress and sorrow that comes from living away from home for so long." With his adult sons settled into [See South Korea, A4]



BRIAN KIM, right, came to South Korea 12 years ago and has tried to assimilate. "Some of my friends ... I feel they still think, 'But yeah, you're not really Korean.'

Trump signals intent to crack down on illegal immigration

Hard-liners Thomas Homan and Stephen Miller are expected to help him deliver on campaign promise.

By Jenny Jarvie

Four months ago, Thomas Homan, a former director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement under Donald Trump, took to the stage at the Republican National Convention to issue a warning to immigrants living in the country illegally.

"As a guy who spent 34 years deporting illegal aliens, I have a message for the millions of illegal aliens that President Biden released in our country in violation of federal law," he said. 'You better start packing

Less than a week after Trump defeated Vice President Kamala Harris, the Republican president-elect an-

nounced that he plans to appoint Homan as his "border czar," one of many signs Trump will act swiftly and decisively on his campaign promise to secure the border and clamp down on illegal immigration.

Trump, who made mass deportations a centerpiece of his 2024 election campaign, is also expected to appoint another longtime ally and immigration hard-liner, Stephen Miller, as deputy chief of staff for policy.

Homan and Miller are just two of the intended appointments that show Trump is setting up to deliver on the key platforms of his campaign. On Monday, he also named former New York Rep. Lee Zeldin to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

Miller, a former speechwriter and campaign advisor to Trump who worked closely with the former president in the White House during Trump's first term, was a key architect of [See Trump, A7]

State to save filings on puppy market

California stopped throwing out records that shed light on illicit trade after a Times investigation.

By Melody Gutierrez

California has stopped destroying records that contain key details about the state's underground puppy market after a Times investigation found that some unscrupulous resellers import hundreds of dogs from the Midwest with little over-

Karen Ross, secretary of the California Department

of Food and Agriculture, confirmed that the records the agency receives are now being preserved, but offered few other details about how the state will use them.

"We have no staff that's dedicated to this, so we're a little bit hamstrung right now, but it's not because we don't want to be a part of the solution," she said in a recent interview.

In California, all dogs brought into the state for resale require a certificate issued by a federally accredited veterinarian listing the animal's origin, destination and verification they are healthy to travel. The agriculture agency has long received those health certificates from other states by - the records are

[See Puppy, A10]

Successful L.A. football coach

John Robinson, who coached USC to a national title and took the Rams to two NFL conference title games, has died. sports, B10

A looming hike in gas prices?

Air quality regulators approve tougher rules aimed at shifting motorists away from fossil fuels. CALIFORNIA, B1

Chance to refine Phillips 66 land

Developers see "a tremendous opportunity" at the South Bay site. BUSINESS, A6

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 71/53. **B6**

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Flea market becomes gentrification flash point

In L.A.'s Frogtown, longtime residents saw event as sign they were losing neighborhood

By Clara Harter

For the young and upwardly mobile hipsters of northeast L.A., the Frogtown Flea Crawl was the hot new event of their perfectly Instagrammable dreams.

For many residents of the historically working-class Latino community, it was their breaking point.

This fall, the event became an unexpected flash point in L.A.'s debate over gentrification as long-simmering neighborhood tensions exploded and a vocal group of residents ultimately pushed the ultrapopular flea market out of town.

The twice-monthly crawl consisted of about eight minimarkets with clothing, food and jewelry vendors scattered along the L.A. River in the Elysian Valley, which is also known as Frogtown. It was launched in



FROGTOWN residents, from left, Miriam Recinos, Arturo Gomez and Lisette Gomez were vocal opponents of the since-canceled Frogtown Flea Crawl.

spring 2023 and quickly became one of the trendiest places to be, with the help of social media and vintage-

fashion influencers. By the spring of 2024, the event routinely attracted hundreds of "trust fund hipsters" who created traffic jams, blocked driveways, left behind trash and even urinated in public, according to Arturo Gomez. Gomez is the president of the Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council but was speaking as a resident of Frogtown.

Residents weren't simply frustrated by the nuisance created by the crawl, he explained; many also believed that the venture was emblematic of the economic forces that are gradually erasing the tight-knit community they grew up in.

Frogtown "is home to many Hispanic and Latino communities who have cherthis place for genera-[See Frogtown, A10]



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