



ADORABLE DEBUT. Twin red panda cubs Zeya, front, and her sister Ila, center, look out from a perch in their temporary outdoor enclosure with mom Hazel during a media preview of the animals at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. Hazel was brought to the zoo two years ago as part of a conservation breeding program. The cubs were born in June. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

Seattle zoo to debut twin red panda cubs

SEATTLE (AP) — Visitors to Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo will soon be able to view the first successful birth of red pandas there in nearly three decades.

The zoo plans to introduce twin red panda cubs at a public outdoor exhibit opening November 23.

Sisters Zeya (ZAY-uh) and Ila (EE-la) have been living in an indoor, climate-controlled area with their mom Hazel since they were born in June.

Zoo officials say the cubs have been climbing trees, hanging out in a high hammock, and developing other motor skills.

Red pandas are endangered, and fewer than 10,000 remain in the bamboo forests of China, the Himalayas, and Myanmar.

Hazel was brought to the zoo two years ago as part of a conservation breeding program.

Newcomer Andy Kim beats Tom MacArthur in New Jersey

By Mike Catalini
The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Democrat Andy Kim, a political newcomer and former national security aide in the Obama administration, defeated Republican representative Tom MacArthur in a tight race in which the incumbent's vote to roll back the Affordable Care Act was a hot issue.

Kim upset MacArthur in the hotly contested southern New Jersey district, widening the Democrats' edge in the House of Representatives.

He declared victory last week, but MacArthur did not concede as mail-in and provisional ballots continued to be counted.

The U.S. House historian's database shows he is the first Asian American elected from New Jersey. Kim has never run for or served in elected office before.

"This from the very beginning was always about the people," Kim told supporters at his office in Mount Laurel when he declared victory. "I will be part of that new generation of leaders that will step up and do what's best for the American people. That's what we need right now."

MacArthur had said earlier that he was waiting for votes to be counted and did not concede.

"This has been a hard fought campaign and like Andy Kim, I'm ready to see it come to an end," MacArthur said in a statement after the election.



SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE. Andy Kim, the Democratic candidate in the U.S. Congressional District 3 race, speaks during a debate against Republican candidate Tom MacArthur, in Newark, New Jersey. Kim, the Democratic former national security aide to Barack Obama, defeated two-term incumbent MacArthur in New Jersey's 3rd District. The U.S. House historian's database shows he is the first Asian-American elected from New Jersey. Kim has never run for or served in elected office before. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez, File)

The district last elected a Democrat in 2008.

MacArthur was an ally of President Donald Trump but stressed his independence as well.

He was the only New Jersey congressman to vote for the 2017 tax overhaul and backed repeal of the Affordable Care Act. He faced jeers and insults from constituents during an at-times raucous town hall about healthcare last year.

He authored an amendment to allow states to get federal waivers to the requirement that insurers charge healthy and sick customers the same premiums. The change, which didn't pass the senate, would have been for people who let their coverage lapse. MacArthur had said those people would be covered by high-risk pools.

In a recent interview, Kim said that was a turning point.

"The moment that was most important in this district over the last two years was the healthcare vote and the town hall that MacArthur did," he said. "That was what got me into the race, that's what just turned this district on its head and why people got so fired up."

Kim largely stayed away from invoking the president, despite his unpopularity in New Jersey.

Owners of Seattle electronics recycler charged in fraud case

By Gene Johnson
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The owners of a large Pacific Northwest electronics recycler, Craig Lorch and Jeffrey Zirkle, are facing a federal conspiracy charge after investigations found the company lied to customers by having mercury-containing flat-screen TVs shipped overseas instead of disposing of them safely in the U.S.

Charging documents filed in Seattle said Total Reclaim Inc.'s customers paid at least \$1.2 million to have the material recycled from 2008 to 2016, but instead, the company sold the televisions to another company, knowing that company would ship them to China, where workers dismantled the monitors without safety or environmental protections.

The practice was uncovered almost three years ago, and Total Reclaim has since been fined by regulators in Oregon and Washington. In an e-mailed statement, owners said they have cooperated with authorities.

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