

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

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ALASKA'S NEWSPAPER | WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE — 1976, 1989, 2020

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First-time homebuyer Marquita Brooks purchased a home in Muldoon a year ago.

Photos by **BILL ROTH** / ADN

ANCHORAGE

As city's home costs rise, first-time buyers struggle to gain a foothold in the market

Renters are aging and left to compete for a limited number of small, yet costly, homes and condos for sale.

Bella Biondini
Anchorage Daily News

During the year she scoured the Anchorage market, Erika Baumann put in offers on seven homes. Sellers accepted none.

"The competition was so fierce, just like unbelievable," Baumann said.

The sheer sum of money required to purchase a home in today's housing market has changed the traditional profile of many first-time homebuyers.

It has become less common for first-time buyers to be newlywed college graduates early in their careers. In some cases, residents must wait a decade longer than generations before them to be able to afford a down payment, and are relying on friends, family or multiple roommates to make the mortgage pencil out.

See **HOMEBUYERS**, A18



Brooks stands in the backyard of her Muldoon home on Oct. 5.

NATION

6 senators call for Trump to reverse course on Russian diesel plan

Sen. Lisa Murkowski among bipartisan group protesting the surprise deal.

Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of six senators on Sunday called for President Donald Trump's administration to "immediately reverse course" on a plan to purchase diesel from Russia as

part of an effort to lower high fuel prices.

Trump shocked lawmakers when he announced on social media Friday that he struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call. He said Russia will immediately supply more than 300,000 tons of diesel to the American and global market, followed by an additional 500,000 tons

See **TRUMP DIESEL**, A4



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / Associated Press

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, emerges from a closed-door meeting Sept. 24 with fellow Republicans at the Capitol in Washington.

WORLD

In race for AI dominance, the US relies on a surprising ally: China

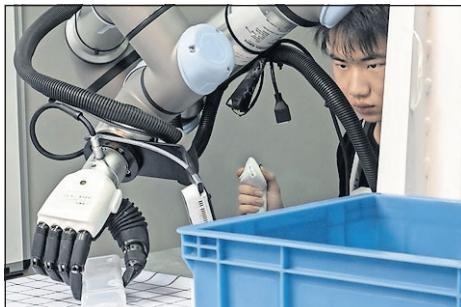
American data centers are full of made-in-China equipment and many U.S. companies rely on Chinese AI.

David J. Lynch
The Washington Post

BEIJING — To hear American officials tell it, Moonshot AI developed its powerful artificial intelligence models through "malicious" pilfering from American tech firms and is part of a Communist Party plot to hook U.S. companies on low-cost Chinese AI.

But at the company's head office here, an unremarkable building in the Zhong-guancun high-tech district, there are no signs of such anti-American malevolence.

Moonshot's meeting rooms are named for American rock legends like Metallica and Led Zeppelin; the company's very name stems from founder Yang Zhilin's affection for Pink Floyd's "The Dark Side of the Moon." Company executives bask in tweeted praise from prominent Americans



GILLES SABRIÉ for The Washington Post

A Tashan worker trains a robot in the right grip strength to fetch a product from a store shelf.

like Elon Musk. And Yang, who earned his doctorate in Pittsburgh at Carnegie Mellon University, even gives his models his English-language nickname, Kimi.

Moonshot is emblematic of the deep ties between two nations supposedly locked in an all-out battle for AI dominance.

While President Donald Trump's administration — and U.S. tech leaders — routinely paint AI development as a

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FORMER RUNNER-UPS FINISH ON TOP

NATION

'So much for bringing jobs back'

Republicans face midterm backlash from factory workers squeezed out of employment by Trump's tariffs.

Bernard Condon
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nelson Vandermeer voted Republican for decades but balked at supporting President Donald Trump, fearing that the Republican's plan for tariffs on imports would hurt workers more than help.

Last year, Vandermeer's premonition came true in a very personal way. The 62-year-old lost his job as a product designer at Howard Miller, a clockmaker that relied on parts produced overseas. After a century in business, the company in Zeeland, Michigan, closed its factory, sold off its inventory and brand name and laid off nearly 200 workers.

"So much for bringing jobs back," Vandermeer said. Next month, he plans to vote straight Democrat in the midterms.

As if an unpopular war with Iran and persistent inflation were not enough trouble for Republicans, they are confronting a backlash over the tariffs that Trump made a cornerstone of his economic agenda. He promised that charging higher taxes on imports would spur a factory renaissance in the United States, but that has not come to pass. Although the country has added manufacturing jobs so far this year, the sector has fewer employees than when Trump returned to the White House in January 2025.

White House spokeswoman Taylor Rogers insisted that a factory boom is underway, citing increases in manufacturing output and more work in certain nonresidential construction trades. "Factory construction jobs of today mean more manufacturing jobs down the road once those factories come online," she said.

See **BACKLASH**, A16

ALASKA NEWS

White House cuts environmental reviews to fast-track Alaska oil exploration

Well drilling, other exploration activities in the National Petroleum Reserve no longer need to undergo individual analysis under a new BLM rule.

Yereth Rosen
Alaska Beacon

Seismic surveys, well drilling, ice road construction and other wintertime oil exploration activities on federal lands on the western North Slope will no longer be subject to case-by-case environmental evaluation, under a new rule the Trump administration announced on Thursday.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management issued the rule for exploration activities in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

The BLM said it is granting a "categorical exclusion" to streamline permitting for most activities that would otherwise require individual environmental analysis under

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