



Trump tariff threat built U.S. copper stockpiles

BUSINESS, 6A

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Raji Doshi of Farmington, Connecticut, won the 2026 3M Young Scientist Challenge. Doshi created a coastal solution that lowers ocean acidity and improves marine health using algae and calcium buffers. PROVIDED BY 3M AND DISCOVERY EDUCATION

YOUNG INNOVATORS

Connecticut teen’s ocean project wins 3M science challenge

Julia Gomez, Amaris Encinas and James Powel USA TODAY

The 2026 winner of the 3M Young Scientist Challenge has been announced, and the winning project could change the world. • This year, contestants aged 11 to 14 used science to solve everyday problems, from smart utensils that detect allergens to tools that are designed to help drought-prone areas find better ways to water their crops. The final presentation took place on Oct. 13, at 3M’s Innovation Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, according to information provided to USA TODAY. • Raji Doshi, a 13-year-old eighth grader from Farmington, Connecticut, was announced as the winner during an award ceremony. • Raji engineered a natural algae-and-aragonite system, an inventive solution to address ocean acidification by increasing alkalinity and removing carbon dioxide from seawater, 3M said in a statement. See CHALLENGE, Page 2A

“The 3M Young Scientist Challenge brings together student curiosity, scientific thinking and 3M mentorship to turn promising ideas into real solutions.”

William Brown
3M chairman and CEO



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meets with European Union leaders Oct. 16 in Brussels. EU heads of state and government are meeting with Zelenskyy as they focus on continued support for Ukraine, European defense and security. OLIVIER HOSLET/POOL VIA REUTERS

Zelenskyy blasts Russia diesel deal

Leader calls Moscow’s peace moves a ‘parody’

Andrew Gray, Yuliia Dysa and Max Hunder
REUTERS

BRUSSELS – Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took aim on Oct. 16 at President Donald Trump’s diesel deal with Russia and welcomed the prospect of European allies stepping up their role in talks, calling Moscow’s stance a “parody” of peace negotiations.

At a European Union summit in Brussels, Zelenskyy said Russia did not want peace. He added that Ukraine was still experiencing disruptions to the SpaceX Starshield satellite system used for battlefield operations and to down Russian drones attacking cities far from the front line.

EU leaders rallied around Zelenskyy after Trump again criticized Ukraine, calling its strikes on Russian refineries a “disgrace.” On arriving at the summit, Zelenskyy pointedly referred to his counterparts there as “real leaders.”

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U.S. cuts end duplicate health care coverage

Ahmed Aboulenein and Amina Niasse
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The Trump administration said on Oct. 14 it is cutting off Affordable Care Act subsidies for about 189,000 people it identified as having duplicate government coverage or being deceased, a move officials estimate will save taxpayers roughly \$738 million this year.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services identified enrollees in 2026 as holding subsidized coverage on the ACA federal marketplace while also enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program. It also identified deceased people still on the subsidy lists.

“When the federal government pays a subsidy for a healthcare.gov plan, we have an obligation to check whether

that payment is owed,” Kennedy said at a press conference. “We certainly can’t keep paying for people who are deceased.”

The administration estimates the action will prevent \$738 million in improper subsidy payments this year, a figure that exceeds \$1.5 billion annualized, Kennedy said. The government expects to prevent more than 1 million months of improperly subsidized coverage by year’s end.

The move builds on a broader crack-down against alleged fraud.

Vice President JD Vance in September said the administration was halting enrollment for more than 760,000 people believed to have been fraudulently signed up for federal health plans, an effort he estimated would save \$2.2 billion. CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz

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The government has acted to prevent \$738 million in improper health care subsidy payments this year, says Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. FINN GOMEZ/GETTY IMAGES

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