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Oklahoma City resident celebrates 113th birthday

One Holland turned 113 on Dec. 24 at Heritage Assisted Living Center in Oklahoma City. Photo by Chris Landsberger/The Oklahoman

• www.leader.com

On Holland grew up viewing her own times when she was in her 90s, but she bought a new car when she was 100.

Now 113, she's the oldest person likely to marvel her time-altering ability.

Holland celebrated her birthday on Tuesday with family and friends in the Heritage Assisted Living Center in Oklahoma City.

"I don't see or hear like I used to, but I'm getting around," she said.

Her wheelchair-bound, a walker or should chair to get around, but needs no help eating.

Holland was born Ora Lee Harrell Mayes, the third of 12 children. She has outlived all her siblings. She married Thomas Holland in 1919, and they raised nine children on a farm near Hillsboro, Texas, and a grandson, T.J. Ervin, who lives in Oklahoma City.

Holland currently rents her at Heritage Assisted Living Center in the northeast Oklahoma City near Tinker.

"She's still very alert and can answer questions as long as people speak slowly and clearly," Ervin said. "She's a very important person who has seen a lot in her lifetime."

Holland was once a homebody and said she started one of the first baby-sitting services in Hillsboro. She also has been in Perkins, Enid and Tulsa.

Her fulfilled Christmases and birthdays were at home, friends, Holland said.

"We don't have a lot of extra things to do," she said. "We just have a good time. We care for Christmas presents and things like that."

From a historical perspective, Holland was 5 when the Wright brothers made their first manned flight and 13 when World War I broke out.

According to the Gerontology Research Group, Holland is the oldest person living in the United States. The oldest in Indian Valley of Michigan, who turned 114 on May 29. Misao Okawa, a woman who lives in Japan, is the oldest known person in the world born March 5, 1898.

Home electricity use in US falling to 2001 levels

By JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK — The average amount of electricity used in U.S. homes has fallen to levels last seen more than a decade ago, back when the married device in many homes was a VCR and the most anyone talking about a tablet was probably an archaeologist or a pain-killer.

Thanks to more energy-efficient housing, appliances and gadgets, power usage is on track to decline in 2013 for the first time since 2001, even though 2001 was cooler and fewer air were electrified.

Here's a look at what has changed since the last time consumption was so low.

BETTER HOMES

In the early 2000s, as energy prices rose, builders began to make homes more energy-efficient. Insulation is better, and homes are heat- or air-conditioned air doesn't stray as much. That means newer homes waste less energy.

Also, insulated windows and other improvements have helped older homes, too, making retrofits of existing homes more affordable. In the wake of the financial crisis, billions of dollars in Recovery Act funding was directed toward home-efficiency programs.

BETTER GADGETS

Big appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners have gotten more efficient in part because of government standards that started over five years as technology evolved.

Even typical rooms air conditioners — one of the biggest power hogs in the home — are 20 percent less electricity per hour of full operation than they were in 2001, according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.

Other devices, air conditioners, refrigerators, dishwashers, water heaters, washing machines and dryers also have gotten more efficient.

Other devices are using less juice, too. Some 40-inch LED televisions bought today use less than a quarter of the power a cathode ray tube television of the past. Some can cost $0 worth of electricity over a year, according to the Energy Star program, a 40-watt incandescent bulb would cost.

Those incandescent light bulbs are being replaced with compact fluorescent bulbs and LEDs that use 70 to 80 percent less energy. Sales of CFLs, the Energy Department, widespread use of LED bulbs could save a product to that of 30 coal-fired power plants.

The move to mobile also is helping. Desktop computers sucking 5 to 10 times more power than laptops, which in turn computers and smart phones, and those mobile devices are specifically designed to use as little energy as possible.

A typical laptop computer $250 a year, compared with $28.31 for a desktop computer, according to the Electric Power Research Institute.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

But are using more devices, and that is offsetting some of the savings that have been thought reduction in power consumption.

TVMs now at all hours of the day, when they're not being watched. And the video game consoles are getting more sophisticated to process better graphics and

• See ELECTRICITY Page 3A

In this combination of Associated Press file photos, Apple CEO Steve Jobs, who shows the new Apple Macbook Air computer in San Francisco on Oct. 20, 2010, and Lenovo Product Chief Executive Officer Rod Adkins, right, speaks next to new his unveiling... Dell, Intel, Lenovo, Hewlett-Packard, Asus and Acer are among the companies with big CRT manufacturing being replaced with laptops, tablet computers and smart phones. It costs $1.26 to run a CRT monitor for a year, compared with $28.31 for a desktop computer, according to the Electric Power Research Institute. AP Laserfile