

Electricity Usage In US Homes Is Falling

NEW YORK (AP) — The average amount of electricity consumed in U.S. homes has fallen to levels last seen more than a decade ago, back when the smartest device in people's pockets was a Palm pilot and anyone talking about a tablet was probably an archaeologist or a preacher.

Because of more energy-efficient housing, appliances and gadgets, power usage is on track to decline in 2013 for the third year in a row, to 10,819 kilowatt-hours per household, according to the Energy Information Administration.

That's the lowest level since 2001, when households averaged 10,535 kwh. And the drop has occurred even though our lives are more electrified.

Feds Announce Drone Testing Sites

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Six states were named Monday by federal officials to develop test sites for drones — a critical next step for the burgeoning industry that could one day produce thousands of unmanned aircraft for use by businesses, farmers and researchers.

Alaska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Texas and Virginia will host the research sites, providing diverse climates, geography and air traffic environments as the Federal Aviation Administration seeks to safely introduce commercial drones into U.S. airspace.

Members of Congress and other politicians lobbied intensely to bring the work to their states. Representatives were jubilant about the likelihood that the testing will draw companies interested in cashing in on the fledgling industry.

An industry-commissioned study has predicted more than 70,000 jobs would develop in the first three years after Congress loosens drone restrictions on U.S. skies. The same study projects an average salary range for a drone pilot between \$85,000 and \$115,000.

"This is wonderful news for Nevada that creates a huge opportunity for our economy," said U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nevada. In New York, Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat, called the announcement a boon for his state.

Schumacher's Drs. Offer No Prognosis

GRENOBLE, France (AP) — Doctors offered a grim assessment of Michael Schumacher's head injuries Monday, providing no prognosis for the Formula One driving great after his skiing accident in the French Alps.

Schumacher has been placed in a medically induced coma to relieve pressure on his brain, which suffered bruising and bleeding when the retired seven-time world champion fell and struck a rock Sunday while skiing during a family vacation.

"We cannot predict the future for Michael Schumacher," Dr. Jean-Francois Payen, the doctor in charge of Grenoble University Hospital's intensive care unit, said at a news conference.

"He is in a critical state in terms of cerebral resuscitation," said Payen, the chief anesthesiologist treating the 44-year-old German driver. "We are working hour by hour."

Schumacher's wife, Corinna, daughter Gina Maria and son Mick were at his bedside.

Russia

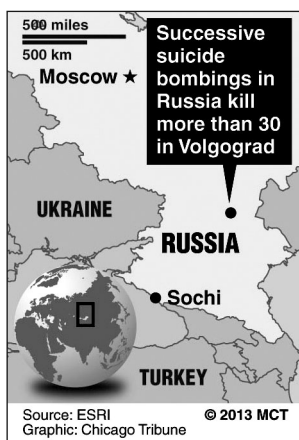
Bombings Raise Concerns

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Two suicide bombings in as many days have killed 31 people and raised concerns that Islamic militants have begun a terrorist campaign in Russia that could stretch into the Sochi Olympics in February. Russian and international Olympic officials insisted the site of the games, protected by layers of security, is completely safe.

The attacks in Volgograd, about 400 miles (650 kilometers) from Sochi, reflected the Kremlin's inability to uproot Islamist insurgents in the Caucasus who have vowed to derail the games, the pet project of President Vladimir Putin.

No one has claimed responsibility for Sunday's blast at the Volgograd railway station or Monday's bus explosion in the city, but they came only months after Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov threatened new attacks on civilian targets in Russia, including the Olympics.



In addition to the dead, the bombings wounded 104 people, according to Russia's Health Ministry. As of late Monday, 58 remained hospitalized, many in grave condition.

Suicide bombings have rocked Russia for years, but the insurgents seeking to create an Islamic state have largely confined their attacks to the North Caucasus region in recent years. The blasts in Volgograd signaled that militants want to show their reach

outside their native region.

Matthew Clements, an analyst at Jane's, said Caucasus militants could be targeting major transportation hubs like Volgograd to embarrass the Kremlin and discourage attendance at the Feb. 7-23 Olympics.

"The attack demonstrates the militants' capability to strike at soft targets such as transport infrastructure outside of their usual area of operations in the North Caucasus," he said in a note. "Although the very strict security measures which will be in place at the Sochi Games will make it difficult to undertake a successful attack against the main Olympic venues, public transport infrastructure in Sochi and the surrounding Krasnodar territory will face an elevated risk of attack."

Some experts say the perpetrators could also have been targeting Russia's pride by hitting the city formerly called Stalingrad, which is known for the historic battle that turned the tide against

Nazi Germany.

"Volgograd, a symbol of Russia's suffering and victory in World War II, has been singled out by the terrorist leaders precisely because of its status in people's minds," Dmitry Trenin, the head of the Carnegie Endowment's Moscow office, said in a commentary on the organization's website.

A city of 1 million north-east of Sochi, Volgograd is a hub with railway lines running in five directions across the country and numerous bus routes connecting it to the volatile Caucasus provinces.

Security checks on buses have remained largely symbolic and easily avoidable, making them the transport of choice for terrorists in the region. And tighter railway security isn't always enough to prevent casualties. In Sunday's attack, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive in front of the train station's metal detectors, killing 17 people, including the attacker.

Life Support Extended For Girl Declared Brain Dead

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A California judge on Monday ordered a 13-year-old girl who was declared brain dead to be kept on life support until Jan. 7.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo ordered Children's Hospital Oakland to maintain Jahi McMath on a ventilator past the 5 p.m. Monday time that was set in a previous ruling.

The family wants to continue life support, saying there is hope for recovery.

Nailah Winkfield, the girl's mother, said she wept when she heard about the ruling and hugged relatives outside the hospital.

She said the delay was an answer to

her prayers and a sign that she was right to keep fighting.

"Who wants to know the date and the time their child would die?" she said. "I don't care what anyone has to say about what I'm doing... I have to do what is right for me and for Jahi."

She said she does not believe her daughter is dead because her heart is still beating.

Sam Singer, a hospital spokesman, said it would comply with the judge's new order.

Doctors at Children's Hospital and an independent pediatric neurologist from Stanford University have concluded the

girl is brain dead.

Jahi underwent a tonsillectomy at the hospital on Dec. 9 to treat sleep apnea and other issues. After she awoke from the operation, her family said, she started bleeding heavily and went into cardiac arrest.

She was declared brain dead three days later.

The latest ruling on Monday came after the family said they would sue to keep Jahi on life support.

Family spokesman Omari Sealey, the uncle of Jahi, disclosed the plan to seek a restraining order against the hospital.



HAND OVER YOUR KEYS
Hold On to What Matters
Drinking and driving can take away everything that matters most to you:

- Your freedom • Your job
- Your reputation
- Your future
- Even your life

Make a commitment to yourself and others to drive sober this season.

Gramps
4th & Burleigh, Yankton
668-9500

These Community-Minded Advertisers Would Like To Wish Everyone A Safe And Happy New Year!

M.T. & R.C. SMITH INSURANCE
Serving the area since 1949.
Home, Auto, Business, Life, Bonds
204 W. 4th Yankton, SD 665-3611

OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS, INC.
178 Spring St., Yankton
665-5181 • (800) 545-2847

Putting Pests To Rest Since 1966
www.800kilbugs.com

WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
Garden of Memories Cemetery
2901 Douglas • Yankton
605-665-3644
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

L&S ELECTRIC
Harry Lane
Electrical Contractor
1600 E. 39th St., Yankton
• Commercial • Residential • Farm Wiring
• Prompt Service • Quality Work • Competitive Prices
New Construction or Remodeling
Home: 665-6612 • Mobile: 661-1040

Roy Johnson Roofing, Inc.

- Standard Seam
- Repairing & New Roofs
- Built-Up Roofing
- One-Ply Roofing System

FREE ESTIMATES
500 Burleigh Yankton • 665-7731

JB Auto Body
1906 E. Hwy 50
665-1280

YANKTON LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET
Hwy 81 North Yankton, SD
665-2999 or 1-800-952-3640

PRCBuild
301 E. 3rd Yankton
665-7423
www.probuild.com

PREMIUM BEST TRANSPORT
1501 Wek Road Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-9202

Capital Street Cabinetry
222 Capitol Street Yankton
668-9814

sapa:
Shaping the future
2500 Alumax Road Yankton
605-665-6063

Shreves Law Office
Brian J. Shreves
Attorney at Law
• Criminal Law • Family Law • Social Security Disability • Personal Injury • Trusts & Wills
Office: 605-665-2535
Mobile: 605-215-1LAW
806 Belfast, Yankton
brianjs711@gmail.com

Slowey Construction
2510 W. 31st. Yankton, SD
(605) 668-8489

Hair AND Beyond
Full Service Salon
311 Cedar, Yankton
664-HAIR (4247)
Carmen, Gerri, & Katie

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Wayne Ibarolle
Financial Advisor
220 West 3rd Yankton, SD 57078
665-4567

Devin Anderson
Financial Advisor
508 W. 23rd #1 Yankton, SD 57078
665-7912

Calvin D. Riesgaard
Financial Advisor
508 W. 23rd #1 Yankton, SD 57078
665-7912

BALDWIN FILTERS
1901 Hastings Drive Yankton, SD

Johnson Electric, LLP
Gary R. Johnson • Chris Merkel
Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel
Commercial Residential Trenching
665-5686
214 Capital St. • Yankton

Please Drive Safe This Holiday Season
hatch FURNITURE & FLOORING
109 E. 3rd St. Downtown Yankton
605-665-4416

PRO AUTO INC.
Yankton, SD
605-665-4142
• Sandblasting • Painting
• Truck Trailer Repair • Car Sales
• Auto Body • In-House Towing
2511 E. Hwy 50 • Yankton, SD
605-665-4142
www.proautoincorp.com

We've got you covered!
Larsen Carpet
212 Walnut
Historic Downtown Yankton
(605) 665-2067