



A rendering of the Facebook data center in Prineville.

Facebook, Pacific Power team up for renewable energy credits

By SUZANNE ROIG
The Bulletin

Facebook's Prineville Data Center is being fueled by a partnership with Pacific Power support, which fits the mission of building and operating sustainable centers in the United States.

Of the 55 new solar and wind projects Facebook supports across 18 states, 1,033 megawatts are from projects located in Oregon, Montana and Utah, including two solar projects generating 100 megawatts in Crook County, according to a Facebook economic impact report released Tuesday.

IT IS CLEAR THAT RENEWABLE ENERGY IS NOT ONLY GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BUT CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES, PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES.

Urvi Parekh | head of renewable energy at Facebook

"We are proud that our commitment to renewable energy has brought additional investment and benefits to communities in the U.S., including central Oregon," said Urvi Parekh, head of renewable energy at Facebook. "We appreciate the partnership of numerous utilities, developers and community members.

"It is clear that renewable energy is not only good for the environment but creates opportunities for businesses, people and communities."

In March, the social media giant announced it would add two new buildings to its campus in Prineville that will make it the largest in its fleet of data centers in the United States.

The two new buildings will add 900,000 square feet to the campus, expanding the 11-building campus to 4.6 million square feet or the equivalent to nearly 80 football fields.

"We applaud the data centers for their commitment to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy," Prineville City Manager Steve Forrester said in an email. "Their commitment has resulted in Crook County and Prineville having the largest solar plant farms in Oregon."

Prineville has a more robust power infrastructure in place today only because of the presence of data centers, Forrester said. The community also benefits. More than 500 high-paying jobs have been created as a direct result of the data center, creating the most economic stability seen in Crook County since the height of the timber industry after World War II, he said.

"The data centers replaced lost jobs with new industries like tech and construction and driven our economy when we needed it most," he said. Data centers are energy-intensive buildings, using large amounts of electricity to power servers and cooling equipment, according to the report.

Generally, they're built in communities with low land costs, low and reliable energy and access to water.

Facebook's efforts has generated more than 6 gigawatts of new wind and solar energy to the grid, creating over 40,000 jobs, Parekh said.

Through a partnership with Pacific Power, the Prineville center purchases renewable energy credits that the power utility uses to build and expand wind and solar energy farms, said Etta Lockey, Pacific Power vice president for regulation, customer and community solutions.

The partnership supports Pacific Power's renewable energy efforts that benefit all its customers. The credits from Facebook will go to expand and support a wind farm in Montana, Lockey said.

Prineville Mayor Jason Beebe said the community talks about the number of jobs and the resources used by the data center.

"I know that they are some of the most efficient data centers in the world, and as for the jobs, I believe there are over 300 full-time positions onsite," Beebe said in an email.

Facebook has invested \$2 billion in its Prineville data center, according to a company statement. Since 2010, when Facebook announced the data center, the company has partnered with Crook County schools, small businesses and non-profits and has provided more than \$2.9 million in community grants and support.

OBITUARIES

Gouverneur Charles 'Chuck' Backus

Seaside

June 11, 1928 — May 6, 2021



Gouverneur Charles "Chuck" Backus, ship fitter senior chief petty officer, U.S. Navy, retired, of Seaside, passed away on May 6, 2021, age 92 years, 10 months, 26 days, at his home. He resided in Seaside for the past 56 years.

He was born on June 11, 1928, in Sheridan, Wyoming, the son of the late Guy William Backus and Laura Lorraine Skinner. He grew up on ranches in Wyoming in Buffalo, Lander and Big Horn before moving to the Medford area in 1943, where he worked at Harry & David after school and during summers building shipping boxes.

Chuck enlisted in the Navy on Sept. 2, 1945. His final reenlistment was in American Samoa before retiring on June 10, 1965.

He met his wife of 67 years, Shirley Aline Riley Backus, when he was stationed at Tongue Point naval station in Astoria. They married on Dec. 25, 1948, in Medford; she preceded him in death on June 1, 2016.

Chuck was enormously proud of his naval service. He was assigned to ships based out of San Diego, Long Beach, and Oakland, California: the USS Leedstown (APA-56), USS Steamer Bay (CVA-87), USS Matanikau (CVE-101), USS LCS-92, USS LCM-118, USS LST 855, USS Marshall (DD-676), USS Diphda (AKA-59), USS Gen. William A. Mann (AP-112) and two tours on USS Point Defiance (LSD-31).

Shore duty stations were at the Columbia River Group, Pacific Reserve Fleet (Tongue Point) Astoria, the ship repair facility in Yokosuka, Japan, and the naval schools command in Treasure Island, California.

His military decorations include the World War II Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal (two stars), China Service Medal, United Nations Medal, National Defense Service Medal and six Good Conduct Medals.

When assigned to the USS Point Defiance, the ship became one of the first rocket-launching surface ships to support the 1958 International Geophysical Year solar eclipse expedition to the South Pacific.

During that deployment the noted American writer, actor, radio commentator and broadcaster and traveler, Lowell Thomas, was aboard Point Defiance, and was a frequent guest in the chief petty officers' mess, which Chuck was in charge of.

The ship also participated in nuclear tests in the Pacific during 1962. In early 1963, Point Defiance transported the bathyscaphe Trieste from San Diego through the Panama Canal to Boston, and then participated in deep search operations into the cause of the loss of the nuclear submarine Thresher (SSN-593), which sank during deep-diving tests east of Boston.



Gouverneur Backus

After completing his naval career, the family settled in Seaside. He worked for Gearhart and then the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department at Saddle Mountain, Ecola Park and Fort Stevens state parks before starting the K-9 Motel pet boarding business on U.S. Highway 101.

He was a member of the Seaside Moose and Seaside American Legion Post 99. He liked listening to the early country music artists, avidly read western novels and had a passion for hunting and fishing.

Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by his brother, Gilbert C. Backus (major, U.S. Air Force, retired) of Rancho Cordova, California; son, Guy Edward Backus, on Feb. 3, 2020; and great-grandson, Erik M. Martin, on Sept. 22, 2003.

He is survived by a son, Charles S. Backus, of Seaside; and a daughter, Tara B. Ruth, and her husband, Dennis, of Corvallis. Surviving grandchildren are Rebecca L. Hagan, of Weiser, Idaho, Charles E. Backus, of Weiser, Melissa A. Barnes, and her husband, William, of Lincoln City, Jessica M. Martin, and her husband, Jeffery, of Phoenix, Arizona, and Karen Dow, and her husband, Justin, of Portland; seven great-grandchildren, Kameron M. Pierce, Chelsie M. Backus, Jasmine E. Hust, Alexandria L. Martin, Liam O. Barnes, Reagan K. Dow and Kevin C. Dow; and great-great-grandchildren, Harper Dahlke, Carson Dahlke and Kinsley Mae Bailey.

Also surviving is a brother-in-law, John C. Riley, of Oregon City; half-sister, Thelma Anne Freske, and her husband, David, of Creswell; half-brothers, John "Bud" Backus, and his wife, Marlene, of Yoncalla, and Frank J. Backus, of White Salmon, Washington, and his partner, Judy Gross, and Richard L. Backus, of Sutherlin; and nieces and nephews.

He will be cremated with burial at the convenience of the family. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Paul Linn Weaver

Hamlet

June 4, 1944 — Nov. 23, 2020

Paul Linn Weaver, 76, entered his eternal life on Nov. 23, 2020, with family and love all around him.

Paul was most known for his clever and charismatic storytelling, and had a way of capturing his audience with interesting words, facial expressions and his wonderful smile.

He offered his voice of reason to difficult situations and used his warm humor to smooth out the inevitable kinks that life brings. He believed strongly in honoring, building and upholding what was best for the family unit, and believed that, however painful, problems held a wealth of lessons to be learned.

He was born in Vernonia to Carl Harry and Thelma Louise Weaver. He was raised in Vernonia, where he attended Washington Grade School before moving to Seaside in 1959.

Paul wrote a column called "Cousin Paul Sez" in the high school newspaper, was active in thespians and played football. He was inducted into the Seaside High School Hall of Fame for the 1962 Cowapa League football champions years later in 2006.

He graduated from Seaside High School in 1963 and then attended Clatsop Community College in Astoria. Paul then moved to Sitka, Alaska, for work, and returned to Seaside in December 1964. On May 8, 1965, Paul married the love of his life, Cheryl Hart, in Vancouver, Washington, whom he met at Seaside High School.

Paul worked at the Crab Broiler as a teen, worked as a logger and went on to drive log truck for Waterhouse Logging, Duffy Larson Logging and J.C. Benson Logging.

Paul also served on the Seaside Volunteer Fire Department from 1972 to 1975. He worked for the United Parcel Service for 28 years, driving package car in Seaside and as an occasional feeder driver to Tillamook and Portland.

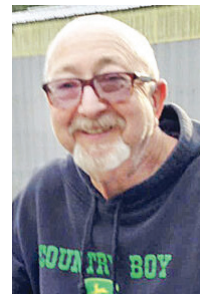
He earned several awards for safe driving, but was most known by his unmistakable smile and, after retiring in 1998, Paul and Cheryl ran their mom and pop business, Little Diggins, doing tractor work and light hauling for 12 years, and retired again to settle into their life in Hamlet.

Paul was active in the small community and served on the board of directors for both the Hamlet Historical Schoolhouse and Community Center and the Hamlet Fire Department for several years.

Paul loved to camp, fish and spend time with family, and was "Papa" to his five grandchildren.

Paul and Cheryl were married for 55 years. He is survived by Cheryl, his three daughters and their families. He leaves a great legacy, and will truly be missed by many.

A celebration of life will be held June 5 at 2 p.m. at the Hamlet Historical Schoolhouse.



Paul Weaver

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
57 47	58 47	61 50	58 47	60 47	61 46	61 48
A passing shower	Low clouds	A chance of rain	Mostly cloudy	Chance of a shower	Showers possible	Chance of a shower

ALMANAC

Astoria through Tuesday

Temperatures

High/low 57/44
Normal high/low 61/46
Record high 79 in 1997
Record low 36 in 2003

Precipitation

Tuesday 0.02"
Month to date 0.50"
Normal month to date 2.04"
Year to date 34.68"
Normal year to date 32.08"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: First quarter moon (12:13 p.m.).

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:37 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:47 p.m.
Moonrise today 1:39 p.m.
Moonset today 3:05 a.m.

First Full Last New
May 19 May 26 June 2 June 10

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
7:50 a.m.	6.5	2:25 a.m.	3.3	
9:31 p.m.	6.8	2:52 p.m.	0.6	
Cape Disappointment				
7:31 a.m.	6.2	1:50 a.m.	3.7	
9:15 p.m.	6.8	2:08 p.m.	0.7	
Hammond				
8:27 a.m.	6.6	2:08 a.m.	3.6	
9:26 p.m.	7.1	2:29 p.m.	0.6	
Warrenton				
7:45 a.m.	6.9	2:09 a.m.	3.4	
9:26 p.m.	7.3	2:36 p.m.	0.7	
Knappa				
8:27 a.m.	6.8	3:26 a.m.	2.8	
10:08 p.m.	7.1	3:53 p.m.	0.6	
Depoe Bay				
6:43 a.m.	6.1	1:17 a.m.	3.4	
8:30 p.m.	6.7	1:35 p.m.	0.3	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Fri.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	81/60/pc	85/63/s
Boston	70/59/pc	74/62/pc
Chicago	84/68/pc	86/69/pc
Dallas	78/70/r	79/69/t
Denver	81/57/pc	77/56/c
Honolulu	85/72/s	85/72/pc
Houston	80/71/r	79/71/t
Los Angeles	72/57/pc	71/56/pc
Miami	83/76/pc	83/74/pc
New York City	78/58/pc	78/61/pc
Phoenix	97/73/s	89/63/pc
San Francisco	63/49/s	64/50/s
Wash., DC	88/59/pc	88/66/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	62/47	52/38/sh	Wenatchee	57/45	55/45/pc
Tacoma	61/43	52/38/sh	Moses Lake	62/44	55/41
Aberdeen	57/47	52/38/sh	Yakima	60/42	55/41
Olympia	62/43	52/38/sh	Kennewick	63/47	55/41
Longview	59/46	52/38/sh	Walla Walla	55/41	55/44
Astoria	57/47	52/38/sh	Lewiston	55/44	55/44
Portland	60/47	52/38/sh	Enterprise	49/33	49/33
Salem	60/44	52/38/sh	Hermiston	64/46	59/43
Corvallis	60/41	52/38/sh	The Dalles	64/50	59/43
Eugene	60/41	52/38/sh	La Grande	53/38	53/38
Bend	53/36	52/38/sh	John Day	52/39	52/39
Burns	52/34	52/38/sh	Ontario	63/48	63/48
Medford	60/43	52/38/sh	Caldwell	59/43	59/43
Klamath Falls	50/31	52/38/sh			