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Legislative Announcements

Bonneville, WAPA Withdraw from Peak Reliability; Energy & Commerce Panel Examines Energy Infrastructure; Senate Holds Hearing on Rebuilding America's Infrastructure; APPA, NRECA Respond to PMA Divestiture Proposal; Energy Storage Report Off to Uncertain Start; and RiverPartners' Call to Action Letter - H.R. 3144.

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Public Power Industry Announcements

OTEC Welcomes Goodenough, Promotes Jensen; Major Construction Enters Its Final Stage at Crescent Bar Recreation Site; Powerhouse Science Center and SMUD Announce Expanded Sponsorship; AMP to Perform Maintenance Work on Utility Poles; and NWPPA Bitcoin Webinar: Where to Find More Information.

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Associate Member Announcements

Tantalus Empowers Utilities with New Digital User and Analytics Platform; and NISC Celebrates 50 Years of Innovation and Member Service.

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Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Check out NWPPA's class offerings in the *eCatalog of Events*. Click on the button below.

Don't miss these upcoming training events:

- [Lineman Skills Series: Lineman Rigging](#)
March 22, 2018 in Coeur d'Alene, ID
- [NRECA CCD 2610 - Understanding the Electric Business](#)
March 28, 2018 in Eugene, OR
- [NRECA CCD 2630 - Strategic Planning](#)
March 29, 2018 in Eugene, OR

- [Managing in a Multigenerational World](#)
April 10, 2018 in Spokane, WA
- [Communication Essentials for Success](#)
April 11-12, 2018 in Spokane, WA
- [Senior Leadership Skills Series Session 2: Lead Your Teams](#)
April 18-19, 2018 in Salt Lake City, UT
- [Lineman Skills Series: AC System Troubleshooting](#)
April 18, 2018 in Seattle, WA
- [Managing Change and Transition](#)
April 18-19, 2018 in Vancouver, WA

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Industry Calendar of Events

A list of upcoming industry events and meetings.

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RFP's and RFQ's

Utilities: NWPPA offers its utility members the opportunity (at no cost) to post RFPs and RFQs on our website at no charge. Reach out to NWPPA's almost 4,000 associate member contacts that supply goods and services to the utility industry and might be interested in responding to your utility RFP/RFQ. To post your RFP/RFQ, visit our [RFP/RFQ page](#). For more information, contact Debbie at debbie@nwppa.org or Mark at mark@nwppa.org.

Associate Members: Make sure to check out NWPPA's RFP/RFQ Web page to view utility RFP listings. Listings are posted as they are received by NWPPA.

New RFP posted March 2, 2018!

[READ MORE](#)

Recent Industry Jobs

View the job opportunities posted to NWPPA's website in the past week.

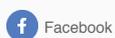
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On This Day in History

David Buick Dies; Churchill Delivers Iron Curtain Speech; Hula-Hoop Patented; and Dial-a-President Radio Program Airs.

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Bonneville, WAPA Withdraw from Peak Reliability

Update provided by Meguire Whitney

Bonneville Power Administration and the Western Area Power Authority are among several balancing authorities that are considering new providers for reliability coordinator (RC) services other than Peak Reliability, which has been the RC for most of the Western U.S. Interconnect since 2014. Under NERC reliability standards, balancing authorities are required to retain a single RC to manage congestion and transmission conflicts between balancing authorities over a large region.

BPA signed a notice of intent to withdraw from Peak effective December 31, 2019, and a separate notice of intent to explore receiving RC services from the California Independent System Operator, although it is keeping its options open to other providers such as the Southwest Power Pool. WAPA submitted similar notices for three of its balancing authorities to leave Peak, two of which (Upper Great Plains West and Western Area Colorado Missouri) have already signed letters of intent to receive RC services from SPP. The Balancing Authority of Northern California also intends to retain services from CAISO.

In January this year, CAISO announced it would withdraw from Peak and offer its own RC services, a move that could potentially raise RC costs for the remaining Peak members.

To manage costs, Peak Reliability had previously announced that it expects to work with PJM Connex on a proposal to offer a broad range of market services (including real-time and day-ahead markets) and explore further options such as a capacity market.

These are the latest in a series of actions, both organic and directed, around the development of new services and potential markets in the West, a region that has been hotly resistant to such structures following the energy crisis of 2000. While structures like the energy imbalance market have developed to meet economic needs, efforts to regionalize CAISO's reach into other states have been high-profile and political. Although RC services are distinct from market services, CAISO's play gives them the opportunity to develop working relationships with entities outside the state.

To read BPA's release, [click here](#).

To read WAPA's release, [click here](#).

Energy & Commerce Panel Examines Energy Infrastructure

Update provided by Meguire Whitney

On February 27, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled, "State of the Nation's Energy Infrastructure," featuring several witnesses from private contractors, local government, labor, academia, and environmental groups. Despite the fact that no one from the electric sector testified, power generation infrastructure was a theme of the hearing. Democrats criticized the president's recent infrastructure proposal, while Full Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) touted 24 bills the Committee has already advanced.

John Devine, senior vice president at developer HDR Inc., discussed the importance of hydropower on behalf of the National Hydropower Association. "Policies that support both the preservation of the existing hydropower system and investment in upgrades and new projects must be included," he said. "A greater recognition that our hydropower infrastructure is incredibly valuable is needed, and continued investment and re-investment in the system is critical to our energy future and national security."

Senate Holds Hearing on Rebuilding America's Infrastructure

Update provided by Meguire Whitney

On March 1, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing entitled, "The Administration's Framework for Rebuilding Infrastructure in America." Witnesses included the Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and Assistant Secretary R.D. James of the Army Civil Works.

Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) stated that “rural communities need a seat at the table” as the Trump Administration looks to streamline project delivery, and questioned DOT Secretary Chao on whether this was critical. Chao responded that President Trump’s infrastructure proposal would work to empower decision making at state and local levels to help restructure “ready projects” for financing. R.D. James went on to argue in favor of divestiture of assets that could be better managed by state and local governments.

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) later commented on the importance of rural broadband deployment, but questioned Chao on the Administration’s decision to not use existing programs to fund projects such as the Rural Utilities Service. Chao replied that she would get back to the senators with a clear answer, but that 25 percent of funds would go to rural states.

NWPPA supports the RUS and its overall mission to “maintain essential electric infrastructure.”

APPA, NRECA Respond to PMA Divestiture Proposal

Update provided by Meguire Whitney

The American Public Power Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association have responded to the Trump Administration’s FY19 budget proposal calling for selling off the transmission assets of the power marketing administrations and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The two trade associations sent a letter to Energy Secretary Rick Perry on February 26 expressing strong opposition to the proposal as well as an additional proposal to change the PMA’s cost-based rate structure to a market-based regime, which would increase electricity costs for consumers.

APPA President Sue Kelly and NRECA CEO Jim Matheson note in the letter that there is “no factual evidence” suggesting that such a transition would result in greater efficiency and reduced risk to taxpayers. The Administration included a similar proposal in its FY18 budget, which was rejected by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

NWPPA signed a similar letter from a group of Northwest trade groups earlier in February. NWPPA has opposed any changes to the PMA structure, and maintains a resolution supporting federal hydropower and preference principles.

Energy Storage Report Off to Uncertain Start

Update provided by Meguire Whitney

The Energy Storage Subcommittee of the Department of Energy’s Electricity Advisory Committee is beginning to prepare its 2018 assessment of energy storage. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires these biannual assessments of the nation’s energy storage capabilities, and the last assessment was released in September 2016.

Administrations typically respond to the assessments within a few months, but the Trump Administration has yet to respond to the 2016 report, which has left EAC members uncertain of how to proceed with this year’s assessment. On February 20, the EAC met in Arlington, Va., to consider options for how to proceed with this year’s report. Bruce Walker, assistant secretary for the DOE’s Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, spoke at the meeting and said that energy storage is one of his top priorities. However, the president’s proposed FY19 budget cuts research programs relating to energy storage by almost 75 percent. Ramteen Sioshansi, chair of the subcommittee and a professor at Ohio State University, said that a formal response to the 2016 report would help inform the next edition of the report and enable the committee to focus on ideas that are more likely to receive support at DOE.

RiverPartners’ Call to Action Letter – H.R. 3144

Update provided by Northwest RiverPartners

Last month, Northwest RiverPartners sent this **letter** to Northwest delegation members with an analysis of BPA’s wholesale power situation.

OTEC Welcomes Goodenough, Promotes Jensen



Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (Baker City, Ore.) recently announced that it has hired Willis Goodenough as its new director of human resources and promoted Rick Jensen to manager of safety and loss control.

OTEC's new director of human resources brings more than 30 years of experience in the field to the utility.

Goodenough comes to OTEC after serving as the corporate human resources director for Tillamook Country Smoker in Bay City, Ore.

"I am excited to work for a company where the main focus

is customer satisfaction," Goodenough said.

Goodenough, who grew up in Camas, Wash., holds an associate's degree in applied science in *engineering degree from Lower Columbia College*, a Bachelor of Science in business management/HR from the University of Phoenix, and a master's degree in education from American Intercontinental University. He also received his certified human resources professional credential from Michigan State University. His professional career, which began in 1986, has included stops in Washington state, Michigan, and Massachusetts.

Jensen joined OTEC as a journeyman lineman 14 years ago. After working eight years in the La Grande district, Jensen worked two years in the John Day district. He was then promoted to reliability inspector in 2013 and over the past four years has worked in both the Baker and La Grande districts.

"I am excited to help advance our safety program. With the participation of all employees we will continue building upon OTEC's commitment to safety," Jensen said.

As the manager of safety and loss control, Jensen will oversee compliance with safety rules and procedures, including training requirements. Jensen will also ensure OTEC meets requirements for federal, state, and local regulations and standards for safety and loss control involving such agencies as OSHA, NESC, and other environmental concerns.

Both will be based in the La Grande district office.

Major Construction Enters Its Final Stage at Crescent Bar Recreation Site

Crescent Bar Island (Wash.) has been bustling with construction activity for the past several months all in an effort to finish three final large projects: the on-island Riverbend Park Boat Launch and day-use marina; water system renovation; and wastewater-treatment plant. Completion of these projects will put the final stamp on the \$30 million transformation of this popular recreation area.

Earlier this month, construction crews were dredging and removing a temporary river rock work platform used to install pilings for the boat launch dock and marina.

Crews then installed a steel framework imbedded in natural river rock and covered it with pre-cast concrete panels to form the boat ramp, said Brandon Little, Grant PUD project manager. "Work should be finished and the ramp open by Memorial Day weekend."

Crews will also install new pumping equipment and build a new pump house to shelter both the island's existing well and a new well. Both will get new pumps. When finished in July, the existing well will continue to be the island's primary source for drinking water and fire suppression. The new well will be a backup water source. Golf course irrigation will come from a third well, which formerly supplied island drinking water, but no longer meets water quality standards.

“Course fairways will be much improved this season as repairs are finished to the course irrigation system,” Little said.

Adjacent to the course's No. 1 fairway, crews have poured concrete for a main component of the island's new wastewater system: the treatment tank.

The new wastewater system is going in just north of the island's existing open-air wastewater lagoon, which will be decommissioned, Little said. The plant will be finished in late November. Crews and equipment will continue working throughout summer and fall, but won't impact those wanting to use the golf course. Island leaseholders will reimburse Grant PUD approximately \$7 million over 10 years for their agreed-upon share of the water and wastewater system upgrade costs.

As Grant PUD prepares for summer visitors at Crescent Bar, the utility is taking proposals from qualified food truck vendors and/or watercraft rental companies to provide commercial services at the Crescent Bar Recreation Area this summer. Complete details and information for potential vendors are available at www.grantpud.org.

Powerhouse Science Center and SMUD Announce Expanded Sponsorship

SMUD and Powerhouse Science Center announced that a critical piece of funding is now in place to build a new science exploration and education facility on Sacramento's riverfront. The SMUD Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve \$9.25 million in total funding for Powerhouse over a 20-year period.

The expanded agreement provides SMUD—one of the project's original title sponsors—with exclusive presenting sponsor rights for the science center, which will be named at a later date. The agreement provides SMUD with a number of additional benefits: the opportunity to develop academic enrichment and STEM-focused programs for students; the right to tailor exhibit content related to energy efficiency and electric vehicle technology demonstrations; and the ability to name the facility.

SMUD's board chose to expand the sponsorship because the new science center will provide a unique opportunity to make progress toward a number of their organizational and community goals. These include:

- Improving access to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education for the entire region, and particularly for students in disadvantaged and underserved neighborhoods.
- Driving economic development along Sacramento's riverfront and expanding civic amenities that will help attract and retain businesses. As one of the largest developments along the riverfront in decades, this project will be a catalyst for growth.
- Expanding workforce development opportunities to increase the number of skilled employees prepared to work in the growth fields of today and tomorrow, including energy, technology, healthcare, and more.
- Exposing more students to fields and career paths that can lead to jobs in the utility sector and increasing the pool of well-qualified applicants for positions at SMUD.
- Providing impactful, experiential ways to help residents learn more about the benefits of increasing their homes' energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving air quality.

“The choice to support Powerhouse Science Center over the long term aligns perfectly with our goals and strategic directives,” said SMUD Board President Gregg Fishman. “We're always looking for opportunities to support STEM education, economic and workforce development, and environmental protection and sustainability—the new Powerhouse facility checks all of these boxes and more.”

[Click here to read the full release.](#)

AMP to Perform Maintenance Work on Utility Poles

Alameda Municipal Power (Calif.) contractors will be out in the community in March and April to assess and maintain utility poles.

To maintain reliable electric service, workers from Intec Services, AMP's pole maintenance contractor, will visually inspect poles, perform pole reinforcements, and, in some cases, dig around the pole to straighten steel reinforcements. Pole reinforcements should not interrupt electric service.

Intec Services technicians will wear hard hats and safety vests, and carry Alameda Municipal Power contractor badges, which they will present upon request. In some neighborhoods, utility poles are located in backyards and technicians will need to gain access to customers' property. Technicians do not need to enter customers' homes.

All field work will be done between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Work will begin the first week of March and continue through mid-April. AMP customers do not need to be home for pole inspections. If a utility pole cannot be accessed, AMP will schedule an inspection visit for a future date.

NWPPA Bitcoin Webinar: Where to Find More Information

The response to last month's NWPPA webinar on bitcoin operations for public power utilities took us by surprise with over 300 individuals attending the webinar. The support from the presenting utilities is greatly appreciated by NWPPA; however, as a result of the interest in this topic, the inquiries made of the utilities that presented on the webinar has been a bit overwhelming.

To assist you as you consider your utility's direction with bitcoin, blockchain, or any other new high-density large load, we have provided several links. NWPPA recommends that you visit these sites before contacting the utilities directly.

- Sample information on practices around high-density loads, i.e., bitcoin and blockchain:

<https://www.chelanpud.org/my-pud-services/rates-and-policies/high-density-loads>

- Sample information for customers and FAQ re. high-density loads:

<https://www.chelanpud.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/rate-35-hdl-faqsef5aa7af9dd5636da1c4ff0e00ce4554.pdf>

- Chelan PUD's High-Density Load Staff Report (July 14, 2016):

<https://www.chelanpud.org/docs/default-source/commission/final-hdl-staff-report-7-14-2016.pdf>

Tantalus Empowers Utilities with New Digital User and Analytics Platform

Tantalus Systems, a smart grid technology company that helps utilities make smart decisions, announced the launch of its latest digital user and analytics platform, TUNet® Insight, on February 26. The software platform offers utilities better management of distribution networks by collecting granular data from distributed assets and providing actionable insights to the right utility personnel at the right time.

TUNet Insight builds on the Tantalus Utility Network (TUNet) hardware infrastructure that includes both intelligent endpoints and smart communications. The user platform streamlines utility grid management and gives personnel near-real-time visibility into and control of smart metering, load management, grid optimization, and smart streetlights.

“TUNet Insight is the product of over two years of planning and was designed in collaboration with an advisory committee made up of our existing utility customers; it represents a significant leap forward in how utilities can leverage data to make smarter business decisions,” said Peter Londa, Tantalus’ president, CEO, and board member. “Today’s utilities are pressed to keep pace with technological innovation, which is no easy feat. We develop our technology to deliver the best data and analytics across a utility network, while striving to ensure that Tantalus’ technology meets and exceeds the needs of utilities both today and in the years ahead.”

Modern utilities are under pressure to both meet the demands of today’s tech-savvy consumers and improve the productivity of existing grid resources. To increase efficiency and reduce operational costs, TUNet Insight offers user-friendly and customizable dashboards that include sophisticated mapping of a utility’s multi-application network, graphs and suggested real-world actions. The platform converts granular data into actionable insights that gives operators full control of their infrastructure and applications. By using analytics to present data and alerts at a glance, TUNet Insight allows operators to take immediate action with minimal effort, which means the utility can improve response time, streamline traditionally laborious processes and improve employee and customer satisfaction alike.

With TUNet Insight, utilities can easily manage cost-saving applications such as advanced metering infrastructure, load management, distribution automation, grid optimization, and streetlight control. By modernizing operations, utilities are also able to attract valuable, fresh talent to their organizations. The secure platform is flexible enough to run new applications and analytics as they become available.

Tantalus is a smart grid technology company that helps utilities make smart decisions. For more information, please visit www.tantalus.com.

NISC Celebrates 50 Years of Innovation and Member Service

National Information Solutions Cooperative, an IT cooperative serving utilities and telecommunications organizations worldwide, has reached 50 years in business and kicked off a year of celebrations at the 2018 NRECA TechAdvantage Conference in Nashville, Tenn., and the 2018 RTIME Conference in Austin, Texas.

“A 50-year technology cooperative is really something rare,” said Vern Dosch, NISC president and CEO. “We wouldn’t be here without the support of our members and the dedication of our employees, and I’m very grateful to everyone for helping us hit such a tremendous milestone.”

NISC was the product of a merger between Central Area Data Processing in Missouri and North Central Data Cooperative in North Dakota in 2000. The two technology cooperatives have been providing IT services to utility and telecommunications companies since the late 1960s, many of which are still members today.

At TechAdvantage and RTIME, NISC recognized 29 utility and telecom members that have been with the organization for 50 years. Today, NISC serves more than 860 independent telephone companies, electric cooperatives, and other public power entities.

"It's so exciting to see the dream of one NISC realized," Dosch said. "We are not done. I can't wait to see what the next 50 years bring to NISC, because it's going to be exciting, innovative, and absolutely driven by our Membership."

As part of NISC's 50th anniversary celebration, the company launched a charitable component called Giving 50@50. The organization raised \$50,000 – half of which came from NISC employees. During the NISC Annual Meeting at TechAdvantage, NRECA CEO Jim Matheson and NRECA International Senior Vice President Dan Waddle joined Dosch on stage to accept a \$25,000 donation to NRECA International.

"Congratulations on 50 years and thank you for the NRECA International program gift in honor of this great occasion," Matheson said. "With NISC, you have a strong and committed co-op ally to help meet your technological challenges and support your aspirations."

National Information Solutions Cooperative is an information technology organization that develops, implements, and supports software and hardware solutions for its members/customers. Additional information can be found at www.nisc.coop.

Calendar of Events

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2018 Upcoming Industry Meetings

Send your 2018 meeting dates and locations to Debbie at Debbie@nwppa.org.

March 2018

7-9 - NWPPA Board of Trustees Meetings, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK

8 - PPC Meeting, Embassy Suites Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

25-28 - NRECA 2018 Directors Conference, MGM Grand, Las Vegas, NV

April 2018

4-5 - NWESS Seventh Northwest Energy Systems Symposium, Univ. of Wash, Seattle Campus

5 - PPC Meeting, Embassy Suites Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

8-10 - NRECA Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

16-17- Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Summit, Embassy Suites Portland Washington Square, Portland, OR, [click here to view information](#)

May 2018

3 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

8-10 - NRECA Connect Conference, Salt Lake City, UT

21 - NWPPA Board of Trustees Meeting, Boise, ID

June 2018

5-6 - WRECA Annual Meeting, Wenatchee, WA

7 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

14 - OMEU Meeting, Canby Utility, Canby, OR

15-20 - APPA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

July 2018

12 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

August 2018

2 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

September 2018

6 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

12-14 - NWPPA Board of Trustees Meetings, Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conf. Center, Walla Walla, WA

26-27 - NRECA Region 7 & 9 Meeting, Anchorage, AK

October 2018

4 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

18-19 - OMEU Meeting, Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach, OR

December 2018

13 - PPC Annual Meeting & Lunch, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR - 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

13 - OMEU Meeting (following PPC annual meeting), Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

Recent job openings within the industry in the last week:

[Assistant Director – Planning & Innovation – Oregon Department of Energy](#)

[Chemical Spray Truck Driver \(U18-039\) – Portland General Electric](#)

[Customer Service Field Representative – Columbia River PUD](#)

[Director of Regulatory & Governmental Affairs, General Counsel – Pend Oreille Public Utility District](#)

[Distribution Design Tech I – Benton PUD](#)

[Distribution Power System Engineer – Chelan County Public Utility District](#)

[Electrical Engineering Analyst – Oregon Public Utility Commission](#)

[Engineer III, System Automation Engineer \(R17-215\) – Portland General Electric](#)

[General Manager, Distribution and Line Operations \(R18-139\) – Portland General Electric](#)

[Parks Superintendent – Chelan County PUD](#)

[Project Manager, Capital Construction R17-674 – Portland General Electric](#)

[Safety and Occupational Health Specialist – Western Area Power Administration](#)

[Spec IV – Automation Test and Energization R17-526 – Portland General Electric](#)

[Specialist VI, Balancing Authority Operator \(R18-163\) – Portland General Electric](#)

[Stat Meter and Relay Tech – Pacific Power](#)

[Temporary Journey-level Lineperson – City of Ellensburg](#)

[Utility/Senior Utility/Principal Utility Analyst/Data Scientist – Snohomish County PUD](#)

David Buick Dies

March 5, 1929



On this day in 1929, David Dunbar Buick, the founder of the Buick Motor Company, dies in relative obscurity and meager circumstances at the age of 74. In 1908, Buick's company became the foundation for the General Motors Corporation; however, by that time David Buick had sold his interest in the company.

Buick was born in Arbroath, Scotland, on September 17, 1854, and moved with his family to Detroit, Michigan, as a child. As a young man, he worked in the plumbing industry and developed, among other inventions, a successful process for bonding porcelain enamel to cast-iron bathtubs. During the 1890s, Buick became interested in automobiles and the gasoline internal combustion engine. In 1903, he founded the Buick Motor Company. The following year, William Durant, a titan of the horse-drawn carriage industry, invested in Buick's company, which was by then based in Flint, Michigan. That same year, the company made a total of 37 autos, known as the Model B. By 1906, Buick had lost control of the business and sold his stock, which would later be worth millions of dollars. Two years later, in 1908, William Durant made the Buick firm the cornerstone of his newly formed holding company, General Motors. Durant soon acquired Cadillac and Oldsmobile, among other car companies. In 1923, Buick built its 1 millionth vehicle. The Buick brand would play a key role in General Motors' rise to become the world's largest automaker by the early 1930s (a title it held until 2008, when it was surpassed by Japan-based Toyota). Today, Buick is GM's entry-level luxury brand and one of the auto industry's oldest nameplates.

After selling his interest in his company, David Buick became involved in a series of unsuccessful oil, real-estate and automotive ventures. He eventually returned to Detroit, where he worked menial jobs before his death in 1929.

Churchill Delivers Iron Curtain Speech

March 5, 1946

In one of the most famous orations of the Cold War period, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill condemns the Soviet Union's policies in Europe and declares, "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent." Churchill's speech is considered one of the opening volleys announcing the beginning of the Cold War.

Churchill, who had been defeated for re-election as prime minister in 1945, was invited to Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri where he gave this speech. President Harry S. Truman joined Churchill on the platform and listened intently to his speech. Churchill began by praising the United States, which he declared stood "at the pinnacle of world power." It soon became clear that a primary purpose of his talk was to argue for an even closer "special relationship" between the United States and Great Britain—the great powers of the "English-speaking world"—in organizing and policing the postwar world. In particular, he warned against the expansionistic policies of the Soviet Union. In addition to the "iron curtain" that had descended across Eastern Europe, Churchill spoke of "communist fifth columns" that were operating throughout western and southern Europe. Drawing parallels with the disastrous appeasement of Hitler prior to World War II, Churchill advised that in dealing with the Soviets there was "nothing which they admire so much as strength, and there is nothing for which they have less respect than for military weakness."

Truman and many other U.S. officials warmly received the speech. Already they had decided that the Soviet Union was bent on expansion and only a tough stance would deter the Russians. Churchill's "iron curtain" phrase immediately entered the official vocabulary of the Cold War. U.S. officials were less enthusiastic about Churchill's call for a "special relationship" between the United States and Great Britain. While they viewed the English as valuable allies in the Cold War, they were also well aware that Britain's power was on the wane and had no intention of being used as pawns to help support the crumbling British empire. In the Soviet Union, Russian leader Joseph Stalin denounced the speech as "war mongering," and referred to Churchill's comments about the "English-speaking world" as imperialist "racism." The British, Americans, and Russians-allies against Hitler less than a year before the speech—were drawing the battle lines of the Cold War.

Hula-Hoop Patented

March 5, 1963



On this day in 1963, the Hula-Hoop, a hip-swiveling toy that became a huge fad across America when it was first marketed by Wham-O in 1958, is patented by the company's co-founder, Arthur "Spud" Melin. An estimated 25 million Hula-Hoops were sold in its first four months of production alone.

In 1948, friends Arthur Melin and Richard Knerr founded a company in California to sell a slingshot they created to shoot meat up to falcons they used for hunting. The company's name, Wham-O, came from the sound the slingshots supposedly made. Wham-O eventually branched out from slingshots, selling boomerangs and other sporting goods. Its first hit toy, a flying plastic

disc known as the Frisbee, debuted in 1957. The Frisbee was originally marketed under a different name, the Pluto Platter, in an effort to capitalize on America's fascination with UFOs.

Melina and Knerr were inspired to develop the Hula-Hoop after they saw a wooden hoop that Australian children twirled around their waists during gym class. Wham-O began producing a plastic version of the hoop, dubbed "Hula" after the hip- gyrating Hawaiian dance of the same name, and demonstrating it on Southern California playgrounds. Hula-Hoop mania took off from there.

The enormous popularity of the Hula-Hoop was short-lived and within a matter of months, the masses were on to the next big thing. However, the Hula-Hoop never faded away completely and still has its fans today. According to *Ripley's Believe It or Not*, in April 2004, a performer at the Big Apple Circus in Boston simultaneously spun 100 hoops around her body. Earlier that same year, in January, according to the *Guinness World Records*, two people in Tokyo, Japan, managed to spin the world's largest hoop—at 13 feet, 4 inches—around their waists at least three times each.

Following the Hula-Hoop, Wham-O continued to produce a steady stream of wacky and beloved novelty items, including the Superball, Water Wiggle, Silly String, Slip 'n' Slide and the Hacky Sack.

Dial-a-President Radio Program Airs

March 5, 1977

On this day in 1977, the *Dial-a-President* radio program, featuring President Jimmy Carter and CBS news anchorman Walter Cronkite, airs for the first time. The brainchild of Cronkite and CBS, the March 5 show was a test-run to see if the program could be successful. (Carter's official papers refer to the show as *Ask President Carter*.)

After a 20-minute practice session, Carter and Cronkite went live on the air with Carter answering calls from all over the country from his desk in the Oval Office. Approximately 9 million calls flooded the CBS radio studio during the first two-hour broadcast. Questions covered a range of subjects from Carter's pardon for "draft-dodgers" to the Panama Canal Treaty to why Carter chose to let his daughter Amy attend a public school instead of a private school in Washington, D.C.

The informal nature of the show suited the equally informal President Carter, who frequently opted to wear comfortable sweaters instead of business suits while working. He appeared to enjoy the call-in session, agreeing to return for another show. Afterwards, he commented that the callers' questions were "the kind that you would never get in a press conference. I think it's very good for me to understand directly from the American people what they are concerned about."

After the show, the president, Cronkite, CBS executives and radio technicians met in the White House's Roosevelt Room for a follow-up assessment of the program; it was pronounced a success. Though it did not air again, a very accessible and genuinely interested Carter continued conversations via phone with two of the show's callers in the days after the first airing.