

# TOUCHET VALLEY LIFE

## TALL TOWN - FROM PAGE 1

ever, Talbott began to question whether or not that was the field for him.

He recalls thinking, "I have this degree and I'm selling nuts and bolts for a living. I need to figure out something else to do here!"

While re-evaluating his work goals, Talbott offered to help a friend's dad build a website for their local business - Jay's Garage, in Dayton. That project never came to fruition, but Talbott's eyes were opened.

"Building a website was a lot more difficult than advertised, but it was kind of fun. I decided to ditch physics and go into visual marketing," Talbott said. "That project fell off the grid on their end but it was a great experience in figuring out how to monetize websites."

Since they were both in the Seattle area, Talbott approached Townsend about going into business together and Tall Town (a compilation of both men's last names) was born.

On March 19, 2015, the highly-organized Townsend made the first entry on Tall Town's corporate timeline: "Connor and Colton are inspired to create a web design company that serves small-town businesses after discovering that Jay's Garage in Dayton, WA could benefit from a professional website."

For the first year, the men kept their day jobs while developing Tall Town. Talbott was first to take the leap of faith, quitting Fastenal in January of 2016. He soon found Tall Town couldn't provide a full-time living, and took a part-time job with a catering business.

"I was working Tall Town during the day and catering on the weekends. It made for extremely long weeks," Talbott said. But the hard work paid off and Talbott was able to drop the catering gigs nearly a year ago.

Townsend's marketing internship had evolved to a full-time position as a project specialist. He saved up his pennies and on Feb. 12, 2016 (his dad's birthday), he left his job to focus on the design business.

The men have found a division of labor that works for them. Talbott specializes in search engine optimization, monetizing websites, and advertising. Townsend is more involved in the visual component of designing and serves as the company business manager.

Both agree that the business is finally at a place that they can call it a success.

"I once computed a metric and determined that we were making about five cents an hour and recall wondering what in the world we were doing," Talbott said. "Now I can't believe how much we're bringing in, so long as the trend

continues, and I see no reason it won't."

"Having the sense that I can rely on this business to provide a living came to me in the last six months or so. That was the biggest hump to get over. We should continue growing as we fluctuate with the market. We're very involved in marketing and networking and we provide exceptional service," Townsend said.

Both Townsend and Talbott are on the board of the Seattle Search Network, an industry trade group focusing on best practices, with nearly 1500 members. Townsend is currently the board secretary and Talbott is president. Talbott is also president-elect of the Des Moines and Normandy Park Rotary Club.

"I never thought I'd be on the board of an organization with more members than the population of my hometown," Talbott said. "It's a big learning experience and so much fun."

The men would like to thank family and friends for supporting them in their journey as well as their mentors Robbin Black, Blake Messer, John Schuster, Carl Larson, Alex Kine and the mentoring staff at SCORE Seattle.

"So many people shared their insight and advice to help us get where we are and we owe them so many thanks," Talbott said.

## PIONEER PORTRAITS

### Ten Years Ago January 22, 2019

Photo caption: The long familiar building at the southwest corner of the intersection of Copei Avenue and Preston Avenue has been demolished and fill dirt was being placed this week. The Don Thomas Storage Building, a long time ago home to a number of businesses including auto parts stores and originally a lumber and coal yard, collapsed under heavy snow last December.

Waitsburg High School's Knowledge Bowl teams edged out the completion at January's meet Tuesday at the Harvest Church in Dayton. Of 17 teams, DeSales placed first, then Waitsburg teams second and third, followed by Dayton, Pomeroy, Touchet, Clarkston, and Prescott. WHS team 1 was Courtney Foley, Matt Leid, Zach Beasley, John Hockersmith, and Chris Carpenter. Team 2 was Wyatt Withers, Ben Kiefel, Philip Kock, Nick Carpetner, and Ellie Bartlow. Team 3 was Matthew Montgomery, Austin Beasley, Fletcher Baker, and Jenneffer Lyden. The Waitsburg Knowledge Bowl coach is Mr. Brad Green.

### Twenty Five Years Ago January 1994

Twelve trees once stood tall at the south end of Waitsburg on Highway 12, greeting travelers as it were. Ten of the trees were birch and two were mountain ash. Sadly one by one, these sentinels have either died or are withering away. The birch trees were likely victims of the bronze birch borer, a serious pest in eastern Washington.

"We should have the state put some fish in it," Waitsburg City Councilman and fisherman Don Wills joked. "There is a lake down there." He was talking about a dozen acres of land just west of Waitsburg along Highway 124 that was scraped clean of topsoil for use in road construction last year. Rainwater has collected in a low spot, forming a shallow pond. City officials are worried that once it dries the loose dirt will be picked p by wind, sending a blanket of dust toward Waitsburg. In addition they worry about the water itself. "It will breed mosquitoes, too" said Bill Thompson, of the council.

### Fifty Years Ago January, 1969

Photo caption: Retiring County Commissioner Orin Walker, who has just completed 22 years in office, reminisces a bit about of the experiences he has had with Bob Sickles of Waitsburg. Orin turned over his commissioner post from district 2 to James A. Stonecipher last Monday, January 13.

ERNEST TUBB and the Texas Toubadors will be appearing in person at the Dayton Eagles on Wednesday, January 22, 9pm to 1am. Some of Earnest Tubb's best, Rainbow at Midnight. Walking The Floor Over You, to mention a few. ERNEST TUBB-The Texas Troubadors-is one of the greatest personalities in the Country Music field.

Mayor Albert Land reported this week that the Corps of Engineers has been busy in the area this week working on the repair of dikes damaged by the recent floods. A road was built to the weak spot in the dike at Huntsville, and dump trucks have hauled many tons of rip-rap to the site to rebuild the threatened area on the levee. Because the field was so muddy, the trucks used as much ballast to build the road into the dike as they did to repair the dike itself.

### Seventy Five Years Ago January 21, 1944

Huge quantities of the new food tokens arrived Monday at the Baker-Boyer Bank in Walla Walla to be turned over later to merchants.

Kathleen McCaw of Prescott was elected president of the Ellen Richard Club, Home Economics honorary at W. S. C.

Mr and Mrs. L. E. Mock sold their farm south of town to Gordon Leid.

Voters approved a reorganization of school districts by a vote of 122 to 87.

Twenty four persons participated in a buttering bee at Andrew Hermanns farm this week. Besides the work at hand, those attending enjoyed a social time and potluck dinner.

### One Hundred Years Ago January 24, 1919

A seven day school for owners and operators of gas engines and tractors has been organized by County Agent, H. H. Boone at Walla Walla.

The watering of two or million acres of arid or semiarid lands as proposed by the Big Bend or Columbia Basin project would transform and beautify a vast region which now lies desolate for the greater part of the year.

Cecil Keiser started to town one day this week and his auto got stuck in the mud and he went to town on horse back.

### One Hundred Twenty-Five Years Ago January 28, 1894








J. L. and W. B. Schaffer have purchased Mrs. Frank Parton's interest in Washington Mills. Both gentlemen have been in the employ of the Co. for several years, both are thorough mill men and the firm is to be congratulated on having them as members.

Prosecuting attorney, Poindexter says the J. K. Elmiston will no longer be allowed to walk the streets of Walla Walla with a guard employed by himself but will have to be treated as other prisoners are till he shall have had his trial.

Harrie and Eastman and Arthur Roberts have consolidated the livery business. They will close the Tucker barn and will do all business from the Main Street stand.

### Touchet Valley Weather Jan. 16, 2019

**Waitsburg's Seven Day Forecast**

 <b>Wednesday</b>	 <b>Thursday</b>	 <b>Friday</b>	 <b>Saturday</b>	 <b>Sunday</b>	 <b>Monday</b>	 <b>Tuesday</b>
Cloudy High: 43 Low: 35	Scattered Rain High: 47 Low: 36	Scattered Rain High: 45 Low: 38	Isolated Rain High: 48 Low: 40	Scattered Rain High: 46 Low: 35	Isolated Rain High: 47 Low: 36	Scattered Rain High: 51 Low: 40

**Weather Trivia**  

Which type of thunderstorm is considered to be most dangerous?

Answer: Supercell.

**Local Almanac Last Week**

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip	Precipitation
Tuesday	38	29	40/29	0.27"	0.30"
Wednesday	37	32	40/29	0.02"	0.63"
Thursday	56	35	40/30	0.01"	-0.33"
Friday	36	34	40/30	0.00"	35.0°
Saturday	36	32	40/30	0.00"	35.0°
Sunday	33	31	41/30	0.00"	0.0°
Monday	32	29	41/30	Trace	

Data as reported from Walla Walla

**Sun/Moon Chart This Week**

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	7:30 a.m.	4:35 p.m.	12:50 p.m.	2:30 a.m.
Thursday	7:30 a.m.	4:36 p.m.	1:28 p.m.	3:41 a.m.
Friday	7:29 a.m.	4:38 p.m.	2:15 p.m.	4:52 a.m.
Saturday	7:28 a.m.	4:39 p.m.	3:12 p.m.	6:00 a.m.
Sunday	7:27 a.m.	4:40 p.m.	4:20 p.m.	7:02 a.m.
Monday	7:27 a.m.	4:42 p.m.	5:36 p.m.	7:55 a.m.
Tuesday	7:26 a.m.	4:43 p.m.	6:55 p.m.	8:40 a.m.



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