

# Deputies make arrest in large-scale fraud case

**DOUGLAS COUNTY** — On Friday, Feb. 26, deputies with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office served search warrants in Elkton and Cottage Grove in regard to a five-month long investigation into a fraudulent non-profit organization run by an individual using the alias of "John P. Hope."

During the course of the investigation, "Hope" was identified as 40-year-old Tyrone Curtis Powell. Powell was arrested during the execution of the search warrants.

In the later months of 2020, deputies began an investigation into the suspected fraudulent transaction of privately-owned property to a foundation called the "Impossible Roads Foundation," which was run by Powell.

The victim in the transaction was elderly and under the impression the foundation was a legitimate non-profit organization that built tiny-homes for disabled veterans. The victim originally had agreed to donate approximately 3 acres to the foundation, believing it was legitimate.

But during the transaction Powell actually obtained approximately 30.8 acres and a shop. Powell immediately began assuming the shop and property as his own property after the transaction.

After the transaction for the property, Powell obtained Restraining Orders against the victim and filed criminal reports accusing the victim of other crimes, such as burglary and theft.

Powell filed these reports and court documents using the alias of "John Hope."

Deputies initially inves-



**Tyrone Curtis Powell, aka "John P. Hope."**

tigated "Hope's" identity and learned that his actual name was Tyrone Curtis Powell. During this portion of the investigation, deputies learned Powell had been raised in California, attended Yale University and resided in Arizona, where he became involved in fraudulent activity.

Also, during this time, Powell operated separate/unrelated fraudulent non-profit organizations under the names of "The Missing Piece Foundation," "True Story World," "The Missing Piece Foundation Endowment," "Machine Seven Super Car Tour" and "Love."

While in Arizona, Powell's fraudulent activity began to catch up with him in both criminal and civil proceedings. In 2009, Powell was arrested for altering a VIN on a vehicle in which he had obtained a loan, then reported stolen and removed the VIN and license plate.

Powell also became involved in civil litigation for defaulting on loans. Powell made claims to law enforcement that he was a victim of identity theft resulting in hundreds of thousand dollars in loss.

In approximately 2010, an obituary for Powell was printed in the local newspaper. A couple years later

Powell fled Arizona.

Powell is believed to have traveled to Alaska, initially, and then shortly thereafter to Bellingham, Wash. Once in Bellingham, Powell assumed the identity of "John Hope" and was able to illegally obtain a Washington Identification card and Social Security card under the new alias with his fraudulent story.

While in Bellingham, he again started another fraudulent non-profit organization, Impossible Roads Foundation.

Under this fraudulent organization, Powell claimed to build tiny homes for disabled veterans. Powell obtained large donations from companies such as Home Depot and Matson, as well as others.

In January of 2021, deputies traveled to Bellingham and interviewed multiple individuals who were familiar with Powell, and who knew him as "John Hope."

While in Bellingham, deputies also investigated the Impossible Roads Foundation and its claims of building tiny homes.

Through the investigation, deputies learned the majority of the donated items were not being utilized and were essentially abandoned.

Furthermore, it was learned the majority of shipping containers, which were donated under the pretenses they were to be used as the tiny home structures, had been sold to a company or individuals.

Deputies also investigated some of Powell's history in Arizona and were able to contact an individual who was able to provide

detailed history on Powell's behavior and sudden disappearance from Arizona.

Based on the information learned in the investigation, deputies applied for and were granted search warrants for Powell's hotel room in Cottage Grove as well as the shop in Elkton. Powell was arrested and lodged at the Douglas County Jail on the following charges:

- Aggravated Theft by Deception in the 1st Degree
- Identity Theft, Forgery in the 1st Degree
- Perjury (2 counts)
- False Swearing (2 counts)
- Criminal Possession of a Forged Instruments in the 1st Degree
- Unlawful Possession of a Fictitious Identification
- Fraudulently Obtaining a Signature.

Additional charges may follow.

Deputies were assisted by the Douglas County District Attorney's Office, Federal Law Enforcement with the Social Security Administration, Bellingham Police Department, Washington State Patrol, and Casa Grande Police Department (Arizona).

The Sheriff's Office is asking anyone with information in regards to this investigation or Powell, contact the Douglas County Sheriff's Office by email at [dcso.pio@co.douglas.or.us](mailto:dcso.pio@co.douglas.or.us) or through the tip line at 541-957-2099.

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

## DONATE YOUR CAR

**1-844-533-9173**

FREE TOWING  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness  
Get A Vision Screening Annually

**Heritage for the Blind**

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

## HIDDEN VALLEY

MEN'S GOLF CLUB

**NEW MEMBER SPECIAL**  
\$50 includes PGA Handicap  
First Round Free for new members

The Men's Club meet Tuesday and Thursday with tee off at 11am.  
For more information call Russ at 541-285-8423



775 N. River Rd • Cottage Grove  
541-942-3046

**844-739-5874**

**BUY 1, GET 1 40% OFF**



**Renewal by Andersen**  
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company

The Better Way to a Better Window™

**ENGLERT LeafGuard** is the permanent, clog-free gutter solution!\*

\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free



**QUALITY TESTED GOOD HOUSEKEEPING**  
Since 1909  
16 YEARS BACKED BY THE SEAL

- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

**541-213-2311**

**Call Today for Your FREE Estimate!**

**WINTER BLOWOUT SALE!**

**67% OFF LABOR!\*\***

RECEIVE A \$25 LOWE'S GIFT CARD



WITH FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE!†

\*DOES NOT INCLUDE COST OF MATERIAL. EXPIRES 03/31/2021.† ALL PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTEND AN ESTIMATED 60-90 MINUTE IN-HOME PRODUCT CONSULTATION WILL RECEIVE A \$25 GIFT CARD. RETAIL VALUE IS \$25. OFFER SPONSORED BY LEAFGUARD HOLDINGS INC. LIMIT ONE PER HOUSEHOLD. COMPANY PROCURES, SELLS, AND INSTALLS SEAMLESS GUTTER PROTECTION. THIS OFFER IS VALID FOR HOMEOWNERS OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE. IF MARRIED OR INVOLVED WITH A LIFE PARTNER, BOTH COHABITATING PERSONS MUST ATTEND AND COMPLETE PRESENTATION TOGETHER. PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE A PHOTO ID, BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ENGLISH, AND BE LEGALLY ABLE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS OFFER: EMPLOYEES OF COMPANY OR AFFILIATED COMPANIES OR ENTITIES, THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS IN A COMPANY IN-HOME CONSULTATION WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AND ALL CURRENT AND FORMER COMPANY CUSTOMERS. GIFT MAY NOT BE EXTENDED, TRANSFERRED, OR SUBSTITUTED EXCEPT THAT COMPANY MAY SUBSTITUTE A GIFT OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE IF IT DEEMS IT NECESSARY. GIFT CARD WILL BE MAILED TO THE PARTICIPANT VIA FIRST CLASS UNITED STATES MAIL OR E-MAILED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE PROMOTION FORM. NOT VALID IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTION OR DISCOUNT OF ANY KIND. OFFER NOT SPONSORED OR PROMOTED BY LOWE'S AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PRIOR TO RESERVATION. EXPIRES 3/31/21. LEAFGUARD OPERATES AS LEAFGUARD OF OREGON IN OREGON UNDER LICENSE NUMBER 223377.

# Worship Directory

<p><b>COTTAGE GROVE:</b> <b>6th &amp; Gibbs Church of Christ</b> 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822 10:00am Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th Tim Baker, Senior Minister <a href="http://www.6thandgibbs.com">www.6thandgibbs.com</a></p>	<p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 3rd and Adams St 541-942-4479 Rev.: Karen Hill Worship: 10:00am Sunday School: 10:00am <a href="http://fpcgrove.com">fpcgrove.com</a></p>	<p><b>St. Andrews Episcopal Church</b> 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050 Rev. Lawrence Crumb "Scripture, Tradition, Reason" Worship: Sunday 10:30am All Welcome</p>
<p><b>Calvary Baptist Church</b> 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290 Pastor: Riley Hendricks Sunday School: 9:45am Worship: 11:00am The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>Hope Fellowship</b> United Pentecostal Church 100 S. Gateway Blvd. 541-942-2061 Pastor: Dave Bragg Worship: 11:00am Sunday Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday <a href="http://www.hopefellowshipupc.com">www.hopefellowshipupc.com</a> "FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"</p>	<p><b>Seventh-day Adventist Church</b> 820 South 10th Street 541-942-5213 Pastor: James D. Boram Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00</p>
<p><b>Church of Christ</b> 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565 Sunday Service: 10:30am</p>	<p><b>Living Faith Assembly</b> 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612 Worship Services Sundays: 9a &amp; 11a Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome) Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)</p>	<p><b>Trinity Lutheran Church</b> 6th &amp; Quincy • 541-942-2373 Pastor: James L. Markus Sunday School &amp; Adult Education 9:15am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue &amp; Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups <a href="http://tlccg.com">tlccg.com</a></p>
<p><b>Cottage Grove Bible Church</b> 1200 East Quincy Avenue 541-942-4771 Pastor: Bob Singer Worship 11am Sunday School: 9:45am AWANA age 3-8th Grade, Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm <a href="http://www.cg bible.org">www.cg bible.org</a></p>	<p><b>Non-Denominational Church of Christ</b> 1041 Pennoyer Ave 541-942-8928 Preacher: Tony Martin Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am Sunday Worship: 10:50am &amp; 5:30pm <a href="http://www.pennoyeravcoc.com">www.pennoyeravcoc.com</a></p>	<p><b>United Methodist Church</b> 324 Washington 541-942-3033 Worship 10am <a href="http://umcgrove.org">umcgrove.org</a></p>
<p><b>Cottage Grove Faith Center</b> 33761 Row River Rd. 541-942-4851 Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueett <a href="http://www.cg4.tv">www.cg4.tv</a> Full Children's Ministry available Services: 9:00am &amp; 10:45am</p>	<p><b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches</b> 1025. N. 19th St. 541-942-3420 Father John J. Boyle Holy Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm Sunday - 10:30 am For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website <a href="http://OLPHCG.net">OLPHCG.net</a> Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM Saturdays or by appointment St. Philip Benizi, Creswell 552 Holbrook Lane Sunday 8 am</p>	<p><b>"VICTORY" Country Church</b> 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913 Pastor: Barbara Dockery Worship Service: 10:00am Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"</p>
<p><b>Delight Valley Church of Christ</b> 33087 Saginaw Rd. East 541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend Two Services: 9am - Classic in the Chapel 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242 Pastor: David Chhange Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Youth Wednesday 6:30pm <a href="http://cgfirstbaptist.com">cgfirstbaptist.com</a></p>	<p><b>CRESWELL:</b> <b>Creswell Presbyterian Church</b> 75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419 Rev. Seth Wheeler Adult Sunday School 9:15am Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am <a href="http://website www.creswellpres.org">website www.creswellpres.org</a></p>

**Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!**

Cottage Grove

# Sentinel

541-942-3325  
116 N. 6th Street  
Cottage Grove, OR

