

# The Daily Edition

50¢

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Friday, August 21, 2015

## Fugitive taken into custody after being caught with minor

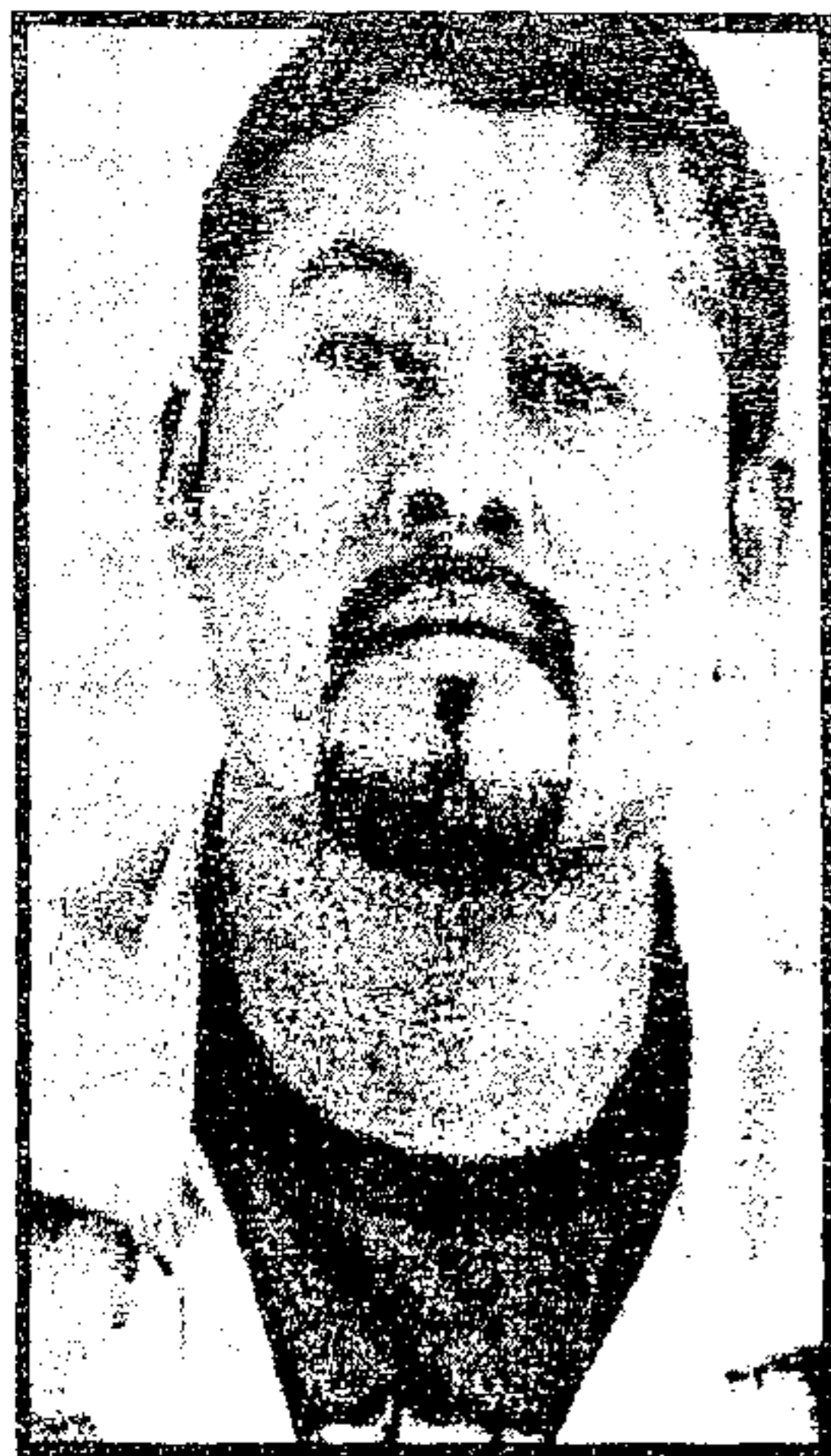
Loudon County Sheriff Tim Guider today announced the arrest of Tee Ray Pellom on local, state, and federal charges. The investigation of Pellom began in July of 2014 and involved thefts and car burglaries in the Tellico Village and Foothills Pointe areas of the county. Items taken in those cases included

(see Wanted pg. 7)



Tee Ray Pellom

## Busted light begins problems



Oscar Diaz

(see Revoked pg. 5)

## Charges filed against fleeing suspect

On Monday morning, August 17, 2015, Loudon County E-911 advised Loudon County Sheriff's Office deputies to be on the lookout for a subject that had burglarized a Roane County residence and fled. Roane County officers had lost the vehicle during the pursuit through dangerous curves in the area

heading into Loudon County on Highway 72. A Loudon County deputy located the vehicle and followed some tracks in to a field at a residence on highway 72. A perimeter was set up by officers and the suspect was being tracked by a K-9 officer, E911 received a call that the subject had stolen

(see Charges pg. 2)

## RICHARD MCNEAL HILLMAN SENTENCED TO 188 MONTHS ON A-PVP (A.K.A. "GRAVEL" OR "FLAKKA") AND FIREARM CHARGES

Richard McNeal Hillman, 54, of Kingsport, Tenn., was sentenced on August 13, 2015, by the Honorable R. Leon Jordan, U.S. District Court Judge, to serve 188 months in federal prison for his leadership role in an extensive a-PVP (alpha-pyrrolidinopentiophenone) distribution conspiracy centered in northeast Tennessee, southwest Virginia and western North Carolina and for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. A-PVP is a synthetic drug, primarily ordered from China, which is commonly referred to on the street as "gravel" or "flakka." Common effects on users include: extreme paranoia; hallucinations; elevated blood pressure; extremely high body temperature; excited delirium; staying awake for days;

(see Sentenced pg. 4)

## Former DuPont Employee Sentenced

Involved in Foreign Conspiracy to Steal Trade Secrets

A second former DuPont employee—Edward Schulz—was recently sentenced for his role in a conspiracy led by a South Korean company to steal trade secrets related to Kevlar, a trademarked product developed and sold by DuPont.

Kevlar, an incredibly strong synthetic fiber developed by the U.S.-based DuPont 50 years ago, is used around the world in body armor,

fiber optic cables, automotive and industrial products, and a variety of other applications. Soon after its development, DuPont trademarked Kevlar, mass-produced it, and put it on the market. But none of this was easy—the company had expended untold resources on Kevlar's research and development, groundbreaking manufacturing processes, and innovative business plans

(see Dupont pg. 3)

## Verse of the Day

Be careful not to do your "acts of righteousness" before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. — Matthew 6:1

## Obituaries

see inside

## Wazzup

It's football time in Loudon County, get out and support your team tonight! Take an umbrella just in case.

## Weather

Today: Sunny. High 84F. Tonight: Clear to partly cloudy. Low 62F. Saturday A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny. High 87F. Saturday Night Clear skies. Low 66F.

Sunday Variable clouds with scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly in the afternoon. High 88F. Sunday Night Partly cloudy with late night showers or thunderstorms. Low 69F.

(Continued on page 6)



## Dupont

(collectively known as “trade secrets”) before the product became a success.

DuPont’s hard work and ingenuity paid off. But there are companies who believe that their road to success can be paved with someone else’s hard work and ingenuity. That was the case with executives from a South Korean company called Kolon Industries who, interested in developing their own Kevlar-like product to compete with DuPont, put a plan in motion to steal proprietary information related to Kevlar—primarily by going after former DuPont employees who might be in a position to have such information.

Stealing another company’s trade secrets is a federal crime, and, after an FBI investigation by our field office in Richmond (where DuPont has a large plant)—with the assistance of the Department of Commerce’s Export Enforce-

ment Office—Kolon Industries and five of its executives were indicted on theft of trade secrets charges. The company pled guilty to the charges in April of this year and was ordered to pay \$85 million in criminal fines and \$275 million in restitution.

Edward Schulz—who worked for DuPont for just over 30 years before he left around 2000—was responsible for technical research and development relating to Kevlar. Despite a signed agreement barring him from disclosing DuPont’s secret or confidential information during or after employment, he held on to numerous DuPont documents when he left the company. So

when Kolon came calling and Schulz accepted their offer of a consulting job, they soon began questioning him about Kevlar, and he willingly turned over some of the proprietary information he had in his possession.

Another long-time former DuPont employee—engineer and salesman Michael David Mitchell—was also caught up in the conspiracy and was

charged with and pled guilty to theft of trade secrets several years ago. Mitchell, fired by DuPont for performance reasons in 2007, had signed the same non-disclosure agreement as Schulz, but he also held on to some proprietary information when he left. While looking for another job, he met with Kolon representatives and eventually was hired

(see Dupont ctd. pg. 5)

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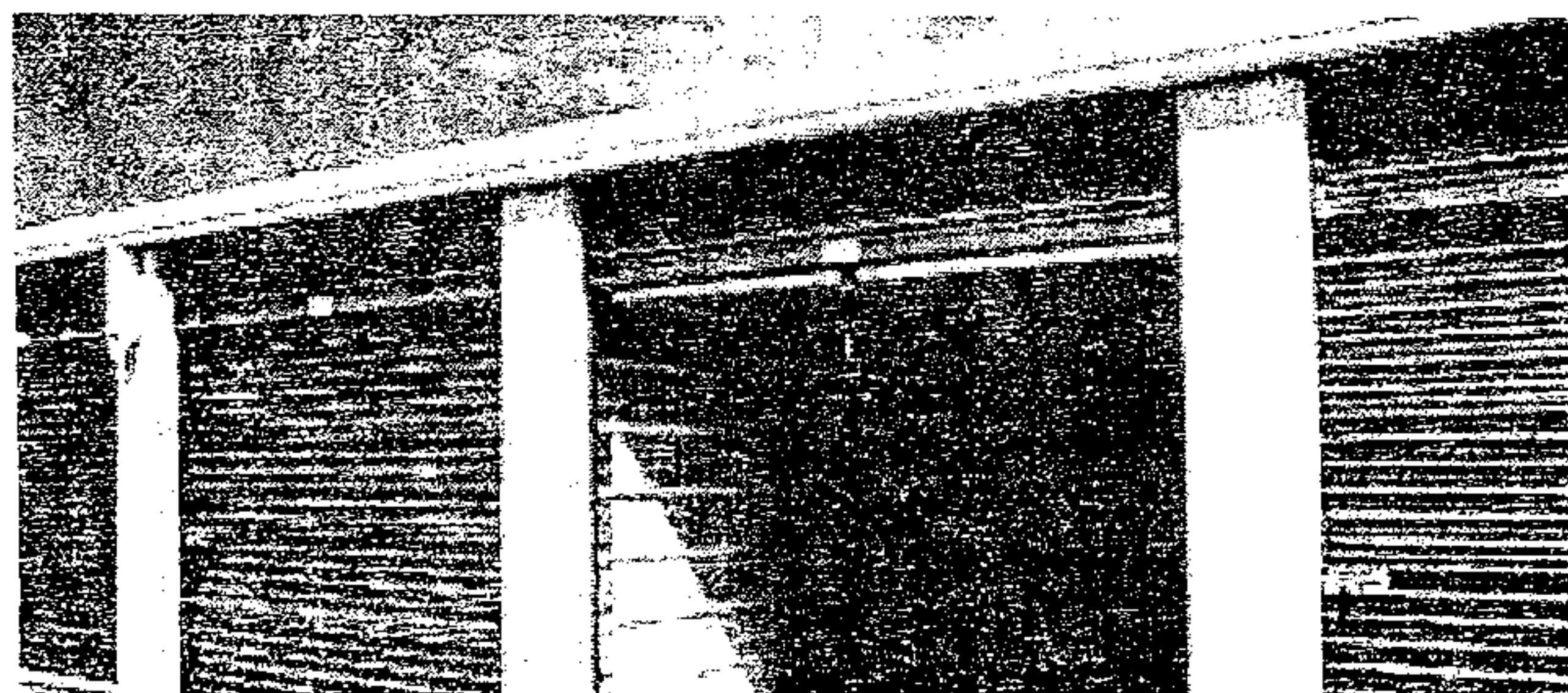
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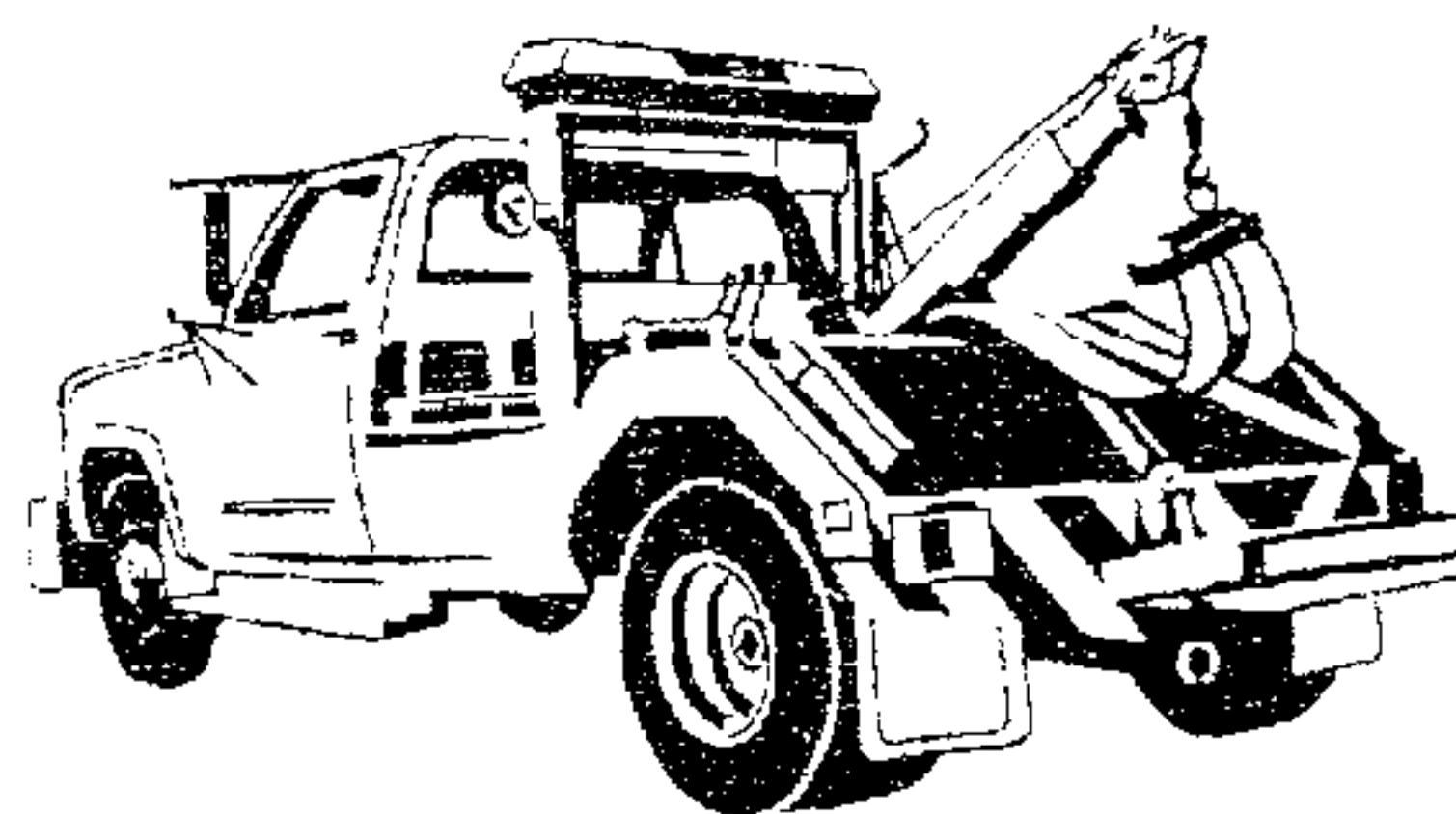
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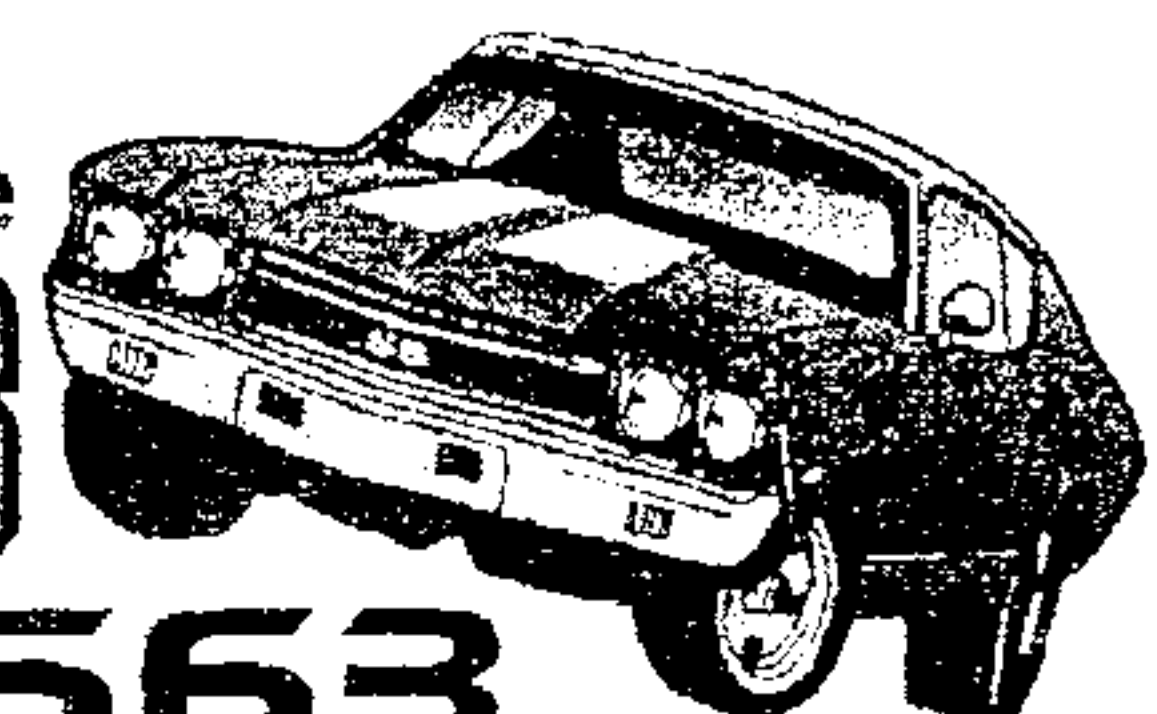


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**Sentenced**

hostility and having exceptional strength without apparent fatigue. These characteristics of the drug make it very dangerous not only for the users, who have described it as "meth on steroids," but also for law enforcement responding to individuals who are high on the substance.

According to the plea agreement on file with U.S. District Court, Hillman admitted to conspiring to distribute and being accountable for a conservative estimate of 30,000 grams (30 kilograms) of a-PVP between September 2012 and August 2014. He admitted that he was obtaining

approximately one kilogram of a-PVP per week for resale from his source of supply in Hendersonville, N.C., Scott Braddock, 49, from July 2013 through March 2014. Braddock has also been convicted of a-PVP conspiracy and international money laundering charges and currently has a sentencing hearing scheduled for November 9, 2015.

Hillman stated he had been selling drugs his whole life and had been able to stay mostly under the radar of the police until now. He also admitted that he had multiple people selling a-PVP for him, including approximately 25 in Virginia alone. He proclaimed that he aspired to be the big-

gest gravel dealer and control the gravel trade in Southwest Virginia. In explaining how he ran his drug trafficking organization, Hillman stated, "you have to be smart, you don't want to get the area saturated with it. You have to control the output, or the price will drop and you won't make money. If you flood the market, you'll step on your own foot." Hillman estimated making over a quarter of a million dollars selling gravel, which was his only source of income during the conspiracy. Additionally, he also admitted to often carrying a firearm and accepting guns in trade for gravel.

Others who have been previously con-

victed and sentenced in this a-PVP trafficking conspiracy include Austin Michael Stallard, Johnny Michael Stallard, Desera Jade Allen, Phillip Wayne Mullins, Johnny White, Michael Ray Mangum and Evelyn Vickers, who were sentenced to 121 months, 180 months, 151 months, 151 months, 120 months, 120 months and 110 months in federal prison respectively.

U.S. Attorney William C. Killian stated, "We are pleased with this significant sentence on Richard Hillman, who served as one of the primary dealers of a-PVP in this region of the country. This drug began to appear in Eastern District of Tennessee as early as 2012 and we have been combating this problem ever since. It is simply one of the most dangerous and addictive drugs available anywhere. I am proud of the hard work expended by everyone involved in the investigation and prosecution of this case and this sentence will serve as an effective deterrent for others who are considering making money by selling a-PVP."

Michael J. Stanfill,

the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration in Tennessee said, "All participating agencies played a crucial role in the eradication of this criminal network. Mr. Hillman's a-PVP trafficking activities posed a significant threat to the quality of life in northeast Tennessee, southwest Virginia and western North Carolina. The dismantling of this organization makes these communities safer today. I want to thank our federal, state and local law enforcement counterparts, who had a direct impact in making this investigation a success."

Jack Webb, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, said, "This conviction illustrates ATF's commitment to reduce violent crime by those who prey on our communities."

Law enforcement agencies participating in the investigation which led to the indictment and subsequent conviction of Richard McNeal Hillman and his co-defendants include the Drug Enforcement Ad-

(see Sent. ctd. pg. 5)



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**Revoked**

Oscar Diaz, 37, N D Street Lenoir City, was charged with Driving on Revoked License, and Violation of Probation. Deputy Kenneth Palmer LCSO, observed a green vehicle traveling in Broadway that had a busted tail-light. Deputy stopped vehicle and made contact with Oscar Diaz, and ask for his license and registration and

ins. Oscar stated he did not have license. A check through dispatch revealed Oscar license were suspended and also had a VOP Warrant . Deputy Kenneth Palmer LCSO, made the arrest.

**Sent. ctd. from pg. 4**

ministration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Homeland Security Investigations, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, Kingsport Police

Department, Hawkins County Sheriff's Department, Johnson City Police Department, Greeneville, Tennessee Police Department, Hendersonville, North Carolina Police Department, and the Scott County, Virginia Sheriff's Office, all of which provided invaluable assistance during the course of the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne Taylor represented the United States.

**Dupont ctd. from pg. 3**

by them as a consultant.

Mitchell shared with Kolon some of the proprietary information he had, but when Kolon representatives began asking him extremely technical questions on Kevlar, he reached out to former and current DuPont employees for answers. Word of his

activities, however, got back to DuPont management, who reached out to the FBI with their concerns.

Eventually, Mitchell agreed to cooperate with law enforcement and made numerous recorded phone calls and exchanged e-mails with Kolon representatives. He also hosted a face-to-face meeting with representatives in a Richmond hotel, which was audiotaped and videotaped by the Bureau.

This case would have been nearly impossible to make without the assistance of DuPont. In addition to the company coming to us initially about the attempts to steal their trade secrets, DuPont worked with us to understand and organize more than a million pages of Kevlar-related documents and hundreds of hours of audio recordings, which enabled the case to move forward quickly. And the FBI and the Department of Justice worked to ensure that DuPont's proprietary information—much of which was used as evidence—wasn't disclosed publicly.

As a result of its experience, DuPont enhanced efforts to protect its proprietary information. Other American companies, if they haven't already done so, need to follow suit—the desire to steal U.S. business trade secrets continues unabated.

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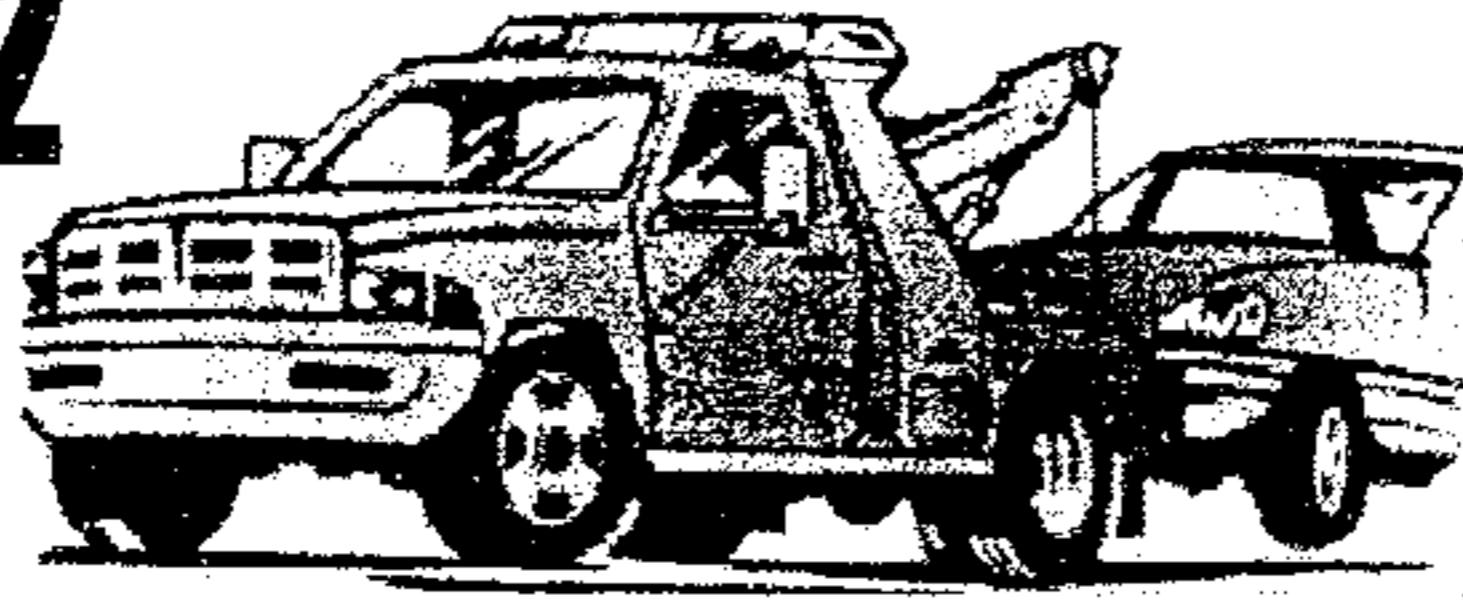
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**Wanted**

weapons, jewelry, and purses. On August 1, 2015, while conducting an investigation of sexual exploitation of a minor, the Loudon County Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Division was able to gather further information regarding Pellom, and were then assisted by the U. S. Marshal's service in locating him in Marion, IL. Pellom was arrested and waived extradition. He was then picked up by Loudon County Sheriff's Office deputies on August 18 and returned to Loudon County. Out of those investigations, the following local charges were placed against Pellom: nine (9) counts of Bur-

glary of an Auto; seven (7) counts of Theft under \$500; one (1) count of Aggravated Burglary; two (2) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; and one (1) count of violation of state probation. Federal charges include 2 counts of Possession of Firearms; and two (2) counts of possession of stolen firearms, for which he could face mandatory jail time. He is currently being held under combined bonds of \$62,000, with three of the charges having no bond. Tee Ray Pellom, 22, Simpson Road Lenoir City, was charged with Criminal Court Capiasx3, Theft of Property, Violation of Probation, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor x2, and Capis. On 8/6/15 Sgt. Jer-

ramie Bowen LCSO, responded to Turn Lane on a juvenile problem. The owner of the residence stated he woke up to go to work and found a black male in his daughter room. The owner ran the male out of the house and the male got into a vehicle and left the scene before arrival. Sgt. Bowen spoke with the owner about looking at his daughter phone. On the phone were several pictures and text from an adult male identified as Tee Ray Pellom. Tee had sent nude pictures and sexual text to the juvenile. Warrant were issued. On 8/18/15 Deputy Olwin Norman LCSO served Tee Ray Pellom with all Warrants.

**OBITUARIES**

**Patricia Lynn "Trish" Richardson**, age 56 of Knoxville, passed away Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at Tennova Residential Hospice from colon cancer. Trish was mother to 3, but Mom to many. She enjoyed providing hospitality to those she served at KFC/Taco Bell in Loudon. Trish was an avid lover of garage sales, Dr. Pepper, Pina Colodas, scratch offs and helping others (not necessarily in that order). She was preceded in death by her husband, Mitchell Henry Richardson; grandmother, Hilda Clausen and brother-in-law, Michael Lawrence Richardson and other dear friends. Patricia is survived by her

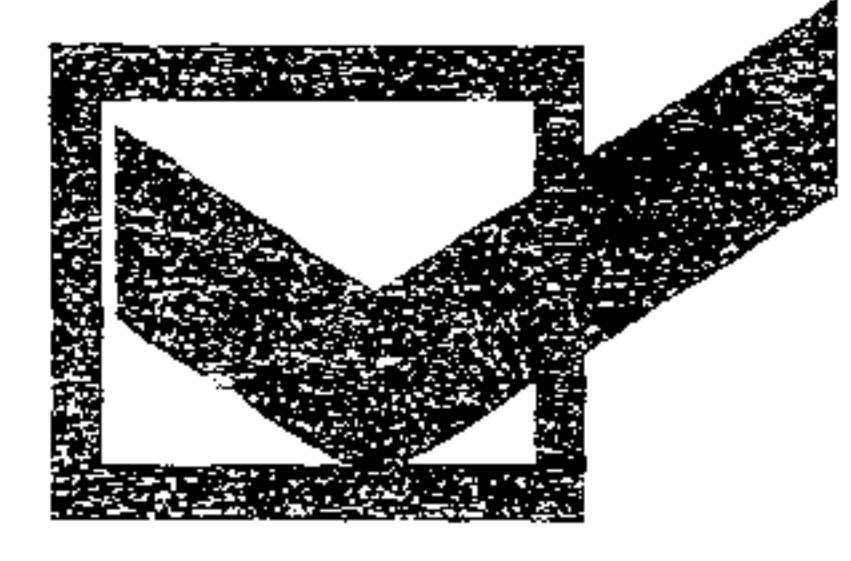
daughter, Heather Angela Herzog and her husband, Thomas; daughter, Jennifer Michelle Richardson and son, Owen Lawrence Richardson and his wife, Brittany; long time companion, Darren Cox; parents, Roger and Wilma Petersen; siblings, Carolyn, Marsha, Duane and Becky; many nieces, nephews and precious friends. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, August 21st with Funeral Services to follow at 6 p.m. at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. A private interment will be held in Lehigh, Iowa where she may rest in peace near the cornfields and country roads. In lieu of flowers, memorials

Obits ctd. pg. 8

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