

News

Three women charged in three Pike County overdose deaths

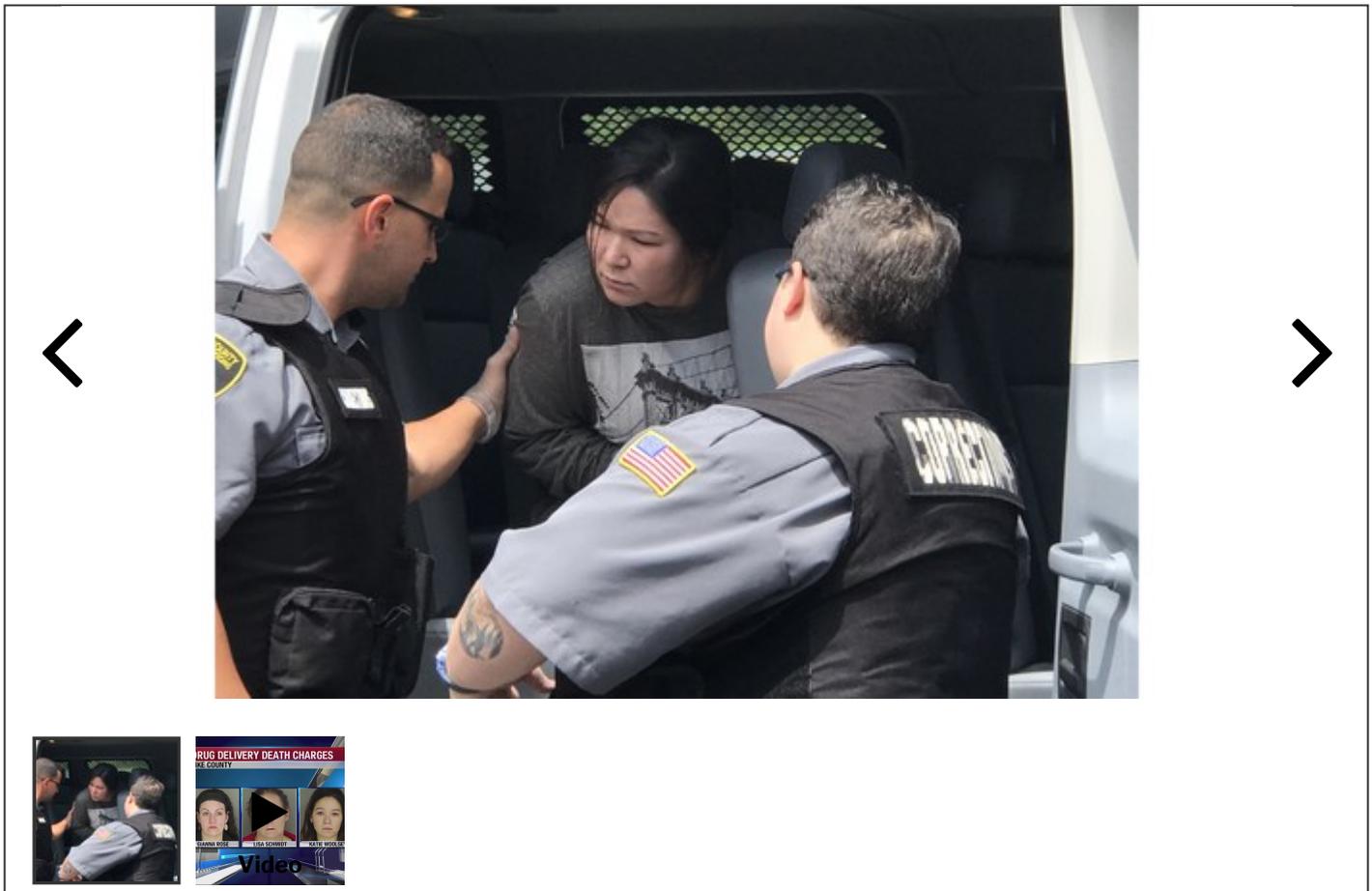
Deaths happened in November & December

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BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP, PIKE COUNTY (WBRE/WYOU) - Three women face charges tonight in connection with three overdose deaths in Pike County.

State police say they're now turning up the heat on drug dealers in order to deal with the epidemic.

The heroin and opioid crisis is something that has hit every corner of the commonwealth.

Troopers say they hope Friday's arrests send a message.

State police say the deaths of three women Last November and December all involved heroin laced with

tentanyl with similar stamps.

"When specific stamps on the heroin packets come to our attention, we monitor that, we track it," Lt. Brian Vennie with the Pennsylvania State Police said.

Katie Woolsey of Lords Valley is the main player in the operation.

She allegedly went to New Jersey every other day to buy drugs to sell locally.

Investigators say she knew how powerful the heroin was.

"The one individual actually looked up the statue about drug delivery resulting in death in Pennsylvania and decided to continue her business of selling drugs here in Pike County," Pike County District Attorney Ray Tonkin said.

Woolsey's friend Gianna Rose is also facing charges. Rose admitted they were basically partners.

The third woman charged is Lisa Schmidt who reportedly helped arrange at least one deadly drug deal.

When asked if she was involved in drug dealing, Schmidt told Eyewitness News, "not involved in drug dealing, using drugs." When asked if she had anything to say about the people who passed away, she replied, "it's a shame but I didn't do it!"

While these three women face drug delivery death charges, state police say at least five other heroin related arrests have been made recently because the number of overdose deaths keeps getting worse.

"When we see 20 deaths. We have to make the arrests. We have to turn up the heat and that's what we're doing here in Pike County," Lt. Vennie said.

Prosecutors in Pike County say the Patterson, New Jersey area is the largest area where people in Pike County go to get heroin and bring it back to sell locally.

They now want to cut off that pipeline.

The maximum penalty for a drug delivery resulting death charge is up to 40 years in state prison.

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