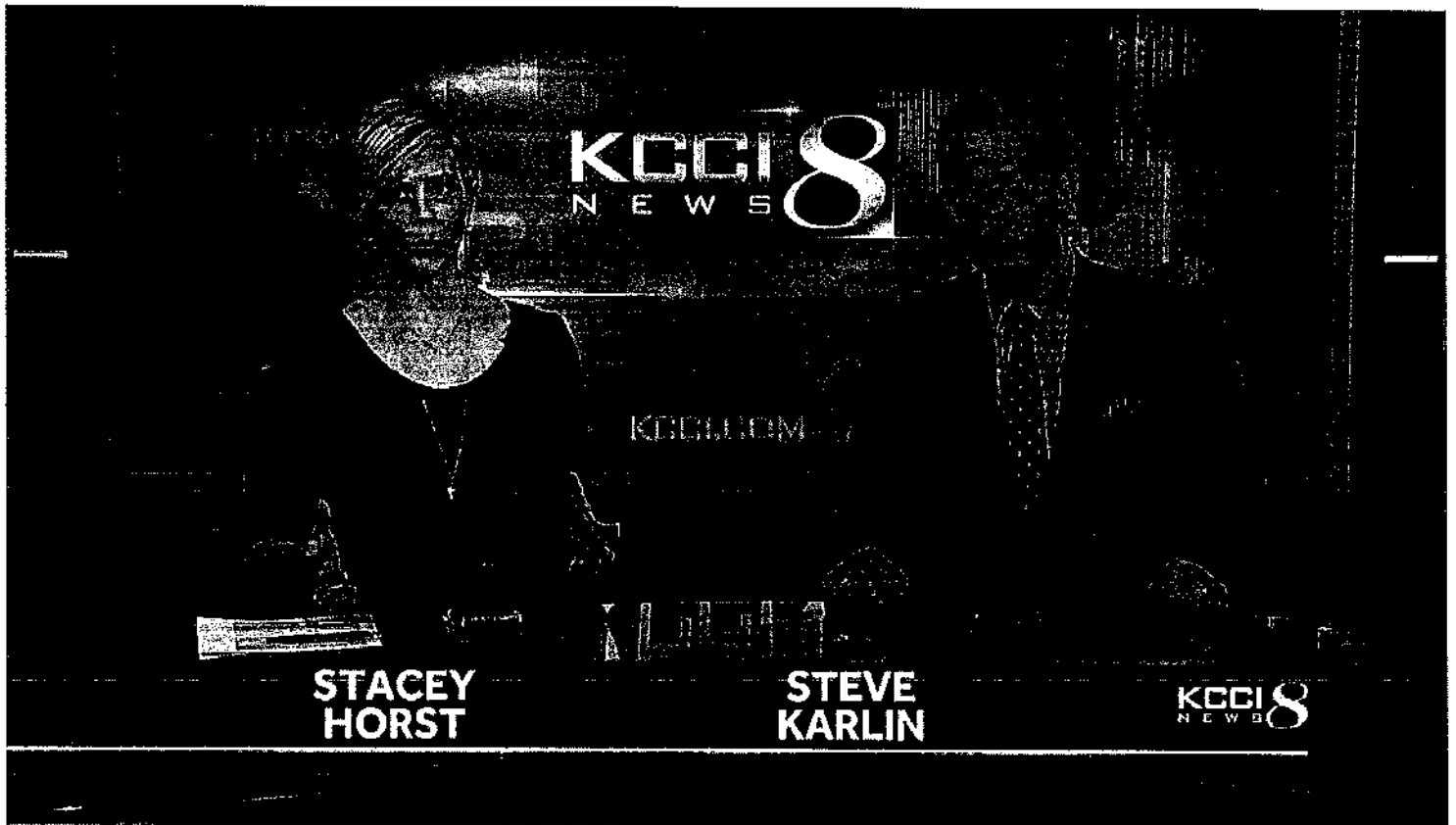


2.7K
Shares

NOWCAST

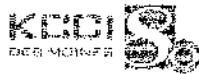
Watch on Demand



SHOW TRANSCRIPT

Advertisement

Nursing home drug charges highlight common problem in Iowa



Updated: 10:13 PM CST Mar 6, 2019

Laura Terrell

Anchor/Reporter

DES MOINES, Iowa (KCCI) — Six Iowa nursing home employees have been indicted on federal charges after they allegedly stole powerful opioids from elderly patients over the past year.

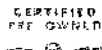
The indictments were announced in a news release Wednesday. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rachel Scherle said the cases are being prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice's Elder Abuse Initiative. All are charged with

2.7K
Shares

Take Advantage
SATURDAY as we pull out
all the stops to set a new
record at our 127th One
Price Sale!

**ONE PRICE
SALE**

SATURDAY | 7AM to 6PM



KARLCHEVROLET.COM | KARLCHEVROLETSTUA

Advertisement

Federal prosecutors said the six cases are unrelated, but the indictments show how prevalent the problem is in Iowa.

Those indicted are 36-year-old Arminda Cruickshank, of Osceola; 47-year-old Barbara Jean Tindall, of Keosauqua; 30-year-old Christine Renee Weillbrenner, of Ankeny; and 29-year-old Samantha Anne Mills and 32-year-old Alicia Danielle Swenson, both of Des Moines. They have all pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors say 31-year-old Katie Christine Howard, of Des Moines, pleaded guilty to two counts on Feb. 11 and will be sentenced in July. Howard has been accused of stealing oxycodone and hydrocodone pills from residents at University Park Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Des Moines.

Cruickshank allegedly stole oxycodone pills while working at Calvin Community and Valley View Village nursing homes in Des Moines.

Mills has been accused of removing fentanyl patches from residents at an unnamed Iowa nursing home.

“When you start talking about those fentanyl patches, that is something that can be extremely dangerous,” Des Moines police Sgt. Paul Parizek said.

The list of dangerous opioids goes on.

Weillbrenner has been accused of stealing Tramadol pills from patients at the Bridges at Ankeny.

2.7K
Shares

Tindall has been accused of stealing oxycodone and hydrocodone from two nursing homes in Mount Pleasant.

“Nursing homes probably stand out a little because you are dealing with a patient population that is a little more vulnerable,” Parizek said.

Authorities said the problem is becoming more common because nursing home residents are some of the most vulnerable patients.

“It’s a little easier sometimes if you’ve got someone who may not have all their mental faculties about them to tell them, ‘No, you got your medicine today,’ when in fact, somebody hadn’t given it to them,” Parizek said. “They might just say, ‘OK, well I forgot.’”

Parizek said health care facilities usually have good procedures in place to catch these types of crimes.

KCCI contacted several of the nursing homes involved in the cases, but they declined to comment.

Follow this story to get instant e-mail alerts from **KCCI** on the latest developments and related topics.

Sponsored Content



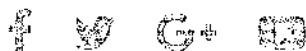
February 8, 2019

If You Watched 'The Blue Lagoon' As A Kid, You...

The Blue Lagoon, a classic(ish) 1908 novel by Henry De Vere Stacpoole, has inspired five films....

By Ranker

KCCI DES MOINES



2.7K
Shares[Apps & Social](#)[Email Alerts](#)[Careers](#)[Internships](#)[Advertise](#)[Digital Advertising Terms & Conditions](#)[Broadcast Terms & Conditions](#)[RSSs](#)[EEO Reports](#)[Captioning Contacts](#)[Public Inspection File](#)[Public File Assistance](#)[News Policy Statements](#)

Hearst Television participates in various affiliate marketing programs, which means we may get paid commissions on purchases made through our links to retailer sites.

©2019, Hearst Television Inc. on behalf of KCCI-TV.

[Privacy Notice](#) [Your California Privacy Rights](#) [Interest-Based Ads](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Site Map](#)