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Crime Stoppers Tips aid in Pharmacy Robberies

RxPATROL to Donate \$1,000 to Crime Stoppers to aid in Pharmacy Robbery

March 14th, 2007, Lexington, KY — One individual suspected of robbing a local pharmacy in the Nicholasville area has been arrested as a result of a public awareness provided by Crime Stoppers and RxPATROL. Nicholasville police have arrested Ronnie Christopher Wheeler in connection with the robbery occurred at the Medicine Shoppe located at South Main Street on March 8th. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty.

Last week, *Bluegrass Crime Stoppers*. asked for the public's help in investigating a pharmacy robbery offering up to a \$1,000 cash reward for information that could help the police with their investigation. As a result of these efforts, Crime Stoppers received a number of tips. The cash reward is donated by pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma L.P., the company which distributes OxyContin® (oxycodone HCl controlled-release) Tablets and developer of the RxPATROL program.

“We received several calls almost immediately after issuing the alert on the robbery,” said coordinator Rob Sarantino. “It is extremely helpful when the public comes forward with information that can lead to the arrest of suspects. The quick response by the Nicholasville Police allowed this suspected to be arrested shortly after the incident.”

Purdue Pharma, L.P. developed RxPATROL (Rx Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies & Other Losses), a collaborative effort between industry and law enforcement designed to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate pharmacy theft information. Most recently RxPATROL has partnered with Crime Line to allocate funds to be used directly as rewards for tipsters who provide qualifying information with regards to pharmacy robberies.

These recent arrests follow several others in Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, New Jersey, North Carolina, Utah Michigan and Pennsylvania. All of these arrests were a result of information from local residents who saw press reports about the robberies and the reward offered by *RxPATROL and other local Crime Stopper affiliated programs*.

“*RxPATROL* is proud to support the efforts of Crime Stopper programs throughout the United States,” said *RxPATROL* program coordinator Capt. Richard Conklin.

All information that comes into *Bluegrass Crime Stoppers*, tip line as well as any other *Crime Stoppers* tip line is kept completely confidential. Callers never have to give their names or appear in court. Anyone with information about any recent pharmacy robberies in the area is asked to call ***Bluegrass Crime Stoppers at 1-859-253-2020***

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