

Tips Lead to Arrests for Armed Robberies *Anonymous Tipster(s) to Receive Up to \$3,000 Reward*

Wausau , WI–December 3rd, 2007 - Another man suspected of robbing a local pharmacy in the Wausau area has been arrested as a result of a reward offer issued by *RxPATROL*[®]/*Crime Stoppers*. The Everett Metro Police Department arrested Aaron D. Smith on November 14th after a tip helped police to connect him to several armed robberies in the area. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty. This arrest follows several others for robberies in the area.

Pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma L.P., which is partnering with Crime Stoppers organizations around the country to help combat pharmacy crime, is donating \$3,000 to the Wausau Police Department reward fund to assist in paying out the rewards for tipsters who have come forward in each of these incidents.

On November 3rd, *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* offered a reward for information leading to the arrest of a suspect responsible for the October 5th robbery at Southside Pharmacy at 2106 Grand Ave. Information provided to police led to the arrest of Aaron D. Smith who had been implicated as a suspect in a series of armed robberies in the area, including a local La Quinta Inn, Charter Communications and PLS Payday Loan Store in Weston.

“We received several calls from residents after issuing the alert on the robberies,” said Police Chief Jeffrey Hardel, of the Wausau Police Department. “We appreciate the continued commitment made by *RxPATROL* to assist us with our reward fund. It is probable these recent arrests may not have occurred as quickly in these cases without the information we received through these tips.”

This arrest follows several other arrests for robberies in the area. On October 8th, *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* offered a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that could help a police investigation of two pharmacy robberies in the Wausau area. A tip in response to the alert and reward offer helped police to identify Nathaniel Madden, David Ramos, Elmer D. Allen Jr and Nathan Fisher for the robbery at Young’s Drug Store at 1702 N. 6th Street on October 6th. On October 26th, Young’s Drug Store was robbed again. Following a *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* alert to the public, Mitchell L. Schmeltzer was apprehended in connection with this incident. A local resident was able to obtain a partial vehicle license plate number, which led police to Schmeltzer’s home that evening, where evidence was found connecting him to this robbery.

Purdue developed *RxPATROL* (Rx Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies & Other Losses) in 2003 as a collaborative effort between industry, pharmacists and law enforcement to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate information on pharmacy theft. In 2005, Purdue partnered with *Crime Stoppers* and affiliated local anti-crime programs throughout the country to offer rewards for information that can help lead to the arrest of pharmacy robbery suspects.

These arrests follows others arrests for pharmacy robberies in Wisconsin and other states throughout the country. To date, 58 arrests have been made as a result of the partnership between Purdue’s *RxPATROL* program and local Crime Stoppers affiliated programs.

“We are proud to support the efforts of *Crime Stoppers* and affiliated programs throughout the United States,” said *RxPATROL* program coordinator Capt. Richard Conklin. “The recent arrests in Wausau prove that tips from local residents really can make a difference.”

All information that comes into any *Crime Stoppers* tip line is kept completely confidential. Callers never have to give their names or appear in court.

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