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CONTACT:
Tami Lawlor
(561) 963-4474

Crime Stoppers Tips Lead to Arrest in Pharmacy Robbery

Washington County, MD – June 19th, 2007 - A man suspected of robbing a local pharmacy in the Williamsport area has been arrested as a result of a public alert and reward issued by *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers*. The Washington County Sheriff's Office has arrested Jamie Barnes in connection with a robbery that occurred in at the Williamsport Pharmacy located at 31 N Conococheague Street. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty.

On May 17th, the Washington County Sheriff's Office and *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* asked for the public's assistance in locating the suspect and offered a cash reward of up to \$5,000 for information that could help the police with their investigation. The cash reward is donated by pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma L.P., the company which developed and funds RxPATROL.

"The Stroudsburg, VA Police Department received several calls from residents almost immediately after issuing the alert on the robbery," said *Washington County Sheriff Sergeant Roy Harsh*. "It is extremely helpful when the public comes forward with information that can lead to the arrest of suspects."

Purdue Pharma, L.P. 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.

This arrest follows several others in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, , Utah and California. To date, 36 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 Williamsport proves that tips from local residents really can make a difference."

All information that comes into the *RxPATROL/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 crimes in the area is asked to call **the RxPATROL Tip line at 1-888-4RXTIPS**.

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