

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Tami Lawlor
(561) 963-4474

Crime Stoppers Tips Lead to Arrests in Pharmacy Robbery

Poca, WV – May 25th, 2007 - A man suspected of robbing a local pharmacy in the Poca area has been arrested as a result of a public plea issued by *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers*. The Putnam County Sheriff's Office has arrested Gary Wayne Dawson in connection with two robberies that occurred in February and April at the Valuerite Pharmacy located at 119 Main Street. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty.

On April 6th *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* asked for the public's assistance in investigating these pharmacy robberies and offered a cash reward of up to \$1,000 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.

"We received several calls from residents almost immediately after issuing the alert on the robbery," said *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* coordinator Chuck Kreimer. "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 Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, 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 Poca 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**.

###