

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Crime Stoppers Tips Lead to Arrests in Pharmacy Robbery** *Anonymous Tipster(s) to Receive Up to \$1,000 Reward*

**Spring Hill, FL, May 5, 2007** - A man suspected of robbing a local pharmacy in the Spring Hill area has been arrested as a result of a public alert and reward issued by *RxPATROL®/Crime Stoppers*. The Polk County Sheriff's Office has arrested Brandon Scott Johnson in connection with a robbery that occurred on April 25th at the CVS Pharmacy located at 1115 Spring Hill Drive. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty.

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* asked for the public's assistance in investigating similar pharmacy robberies in the Bradenton area and offered a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that could help the police with their investigation. The increased public attention led to a tip that helped to identify Johnson. 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 after issuing the alert on the robbery," said *Donna Black, Hernando County Crime Stoppers spokesperson*. "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 Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, 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 Spring Hill prove that tips from local residents really can make a difference."

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

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