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Tips Lead to Arrests in Pharmacy Robbery *Anonymous Tipster(s) to Receive Up to \$2,000 Reward*

Wausau , WI–November 3rd, 2007 - Four men suspected of robbing a local pharmacy in the Wausau area have been arrested as a result of a reward offer issued by *RxPATROL*[®]/*Crime Stoppers*. The Wausau Police Department arrested Nathaniel Madden and David Ramos on October 13th after a tip led police to the location of the suspects. Police followed with the additional arrests of Nathan Fisher and Elmer D Allen Jr. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty.

On October 8th, *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* offered a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that could help the police investigation of two pharmacy robberies in the Wausau area. A tip to local police helped to identify Madden, Ramos, Allen and Fisher for the robbery at Young's Drug Store at 1702 N. 6th Street on October 6th.

"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 commitment made by *RxPATROL* to assist us with our reward fund. These suspects may not have been apprehended as quickly without the information we received through these tips."

On October 26th, Young's Drug Store was robbed again. Due to the increased media attention and news release offering rewards for information leading to the arrest of any suspects involved in any pharmacy crime in the area, Mitchell L. Schmeltzer was quickly apprehended. A local resident was able to obtain a partial plate, which was instrumental to police leading them to Schmeltzer's home that evening, where evidence was found connecting him to this robbery. *RxPATROL* is donating \$2,000 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.

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, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, Utah and California. To date, 57 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.

RxPATROL is contributing an additional reward of up to \$1,000 for any information leading to the arrest of the suspect(s) involved in the October 5th robbery at Southside Pharmacy at 2106 Grand Avenue, which is still unsolved. Anyone with information

regarding recent pharmacy robberies in the area is asked to call their local Crime Stoppers program, or the special tip line of 715-261-7847 set up for these robberies.

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