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RxPATROL[®]/Crime Stoppers Partnership Leads to Arrest of Suspects Responsible for Pharmacy Robberies in Two States

Crime Stoppers to Give \$10,000 Reward to Caldwell County Sheriff's Department and Lenoir Police Department in North Carolina.

Cincinnati, OH - September 24 — Two North Carolina men suspected of aggravated robbery of two pharmacies in Ohio and Texas have been arrested as a result of a public alert and reward offer issued by *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers*. On September 13, 2007, the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office in Lenoir, NC arrested Matthew Harrison Triplet and Roy Jacob Blair in connection with the two robberies. Law enforcement officials are investigating whether the suspects were involved in additional pharmacy robberies. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty.

Last month, *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* asked for the public's assistance in investigating a July 14 robbery at Bryan's Pharmacy in Lebanon, OH and an August 17 robbery at the Clinic Pharmacy in Mount Pleasant, TX. Cash and medication were taken during both robberies. An analysis of information collected by *RxPATROL*, including surveillance photos and video, connected the two suspects to the robberies. *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* offered a reward of up to \$10,000 cash for information that could help the police with their investigation. The Caldwell County Sheriff's office and the Lenoir Police Department will receive the Crime Stoppers reward, which was donated by pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma L.P., the company which developed and funds *RxPATROL*.

Sgt. Sharyn Care of the Mount Pleasant, Texas Police Department and Detective Dennis Luken of the Warren County Drug Task Force worked with detectives with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office and Lenoir Police Department to positively identify the individuals in the surveillance footage. Arrest warrants were issued for Triplet and Blair on September 12, 2007 and the Caldwell County Sheriff Office conducted aerial surveillance of Triplet's residence with the assistance of the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Sheriff Alan C. Jones, the Caldwell County SWAT, and other investigators took Mr. Triplet into custody without incident. Blair was taken into custody shortly thereafter, also without incident. Investigators with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at the Triplet residence in Lenoir, where clothing possibly worn during the robberies, a .38 caliber revolver, and prescription medication bottles were found.

"Without the collaboration of local law enforcement in Texas and North Carolina, we would not have been able to connect these two incidents," said Commander John Burke of the Warren County Drug Task Force. "*RxPATROL* allowed several agencies to compare surveillance videos and conclude that we were dealing with the same suspects."

"Communication between agencies on a local and national level is a vital key to solving crimes throughout the State of North Carolina and the United States," said Sheriff Alan C. Jones with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department. This case was the perfect example of agencies working together both to solve crimes and prevent potential of future occurrences. Each agency in this case did an excellent job working this case from every angle to ensure a strong prosecution of the defendants".

“The ability to use *RxPATROL* as a resource to review photos and suspect information proved to be vital in helping us identify these suspects,” said Sgt. Sharyn Cary of the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

“We began to lose hope these individuals would be apprehended four or five weeks after the robbery,” said Bryan Hutcheson owner and pharmacist of Bryan’s Family Pharmacy. “I am very grateful to the law enforcement personnel who worked together to capture these suspects.”

Purdue Pharma, L.P. developed *RxPATROL* (Rx Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies & Other Losses) as a collaborative effort between industry and law enforcement designed to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate information on pharmacy theft. Most recently, Purdue has partnered with Crime Stoppers programs throughout the country to offer rewards for information which leads to the arrest of pharmacy robbery suspects.

These recent arrests follow others in eleven other states. To date, 38 arrests have been made possible as a result of the partnership between the *RxPATROL* program and local Crime Stoppers affiliated programs.

“We are pleased to be able to support the efforts of CrimeStoppers and local law enforcement throughout the United States,” said *RxPATROL* program coordinator Capt. Richard Conklin. “We hope more law enforcement agencies and pharmacy personnel will use the *RxPATROL* database as a tool to support their investigations and help reduce the risk of future robberies.

All information that comes into the *RxPATROL/Crime Stoppers* tip line, as well as any *Crime Stoppers* tip line is kept completely confidential. Callers never have to give their names or appear in court. Anyone with information regarding any recent pharmacy robbery in the area is asked to call **RxPATROL /Crime Stoppers at 888-4RXTIPS.**

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