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Tips Lead to Arrests In Pharmacy Robberies

Anonymous Tipster(s) to Receive Up to \$1,000 Reward

Beckley, WV - March 17, 2008 - Three women suspected of robbery at two local pharmacies in the Beckley area have been arrested as a result of public alerts and reward offers issued by *RxPATROL*[®]/*Crime Stoppers*. The Beckley Police Department received a detailed tip about the identity of two of the suspects, which provided enough information for police to be able to arrest Rebecca Earls, Amanda Severino and Amanda Lilly. All suspects are deemed innocent until proven guilty.

On January 30th, *RxPATROL/CrimeStoppers* asked for the public's assistance in locating Timothy Ray Perry as a suspect in the December 2007 robbery of a local Kroger Pharmacy. The increased public attention led to additional tips that helped to identify Earls, Severino and Lilly in connection with other pharmacy robberies, including a March 5th robbery at the Kmart Pharmacy at 301 Beckley Plaza and a March 10th robbery at Beckley Pharmacy at 269 Stanaford Road.

The cash reward is donated by pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma L.P., which developed and funds *RxPATROL*, a collaborative effort between industry, pharmacists and law enforcement to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate information on pharmacy theft. Purdue is partnering 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.

“Shortly after the media alert concerning Mr. Perry, we had two additional robberies at local pharmacies. We believe due to the increase in media attention we received additional information which we may not have otherwise received without the reward offer,” said Detective David Allard. We are grateful for the continued support and reward funds *RxPATROL* provides when pharmacy crimes occur. The rewards are helpful in providing us additional information allowing us to connect the pieces and make quicker arrests.”

This arrest follows several others arrests for pharmacy robberies in West Virginia and other states throughout the country. To date, 67 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 Beckley 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.

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