



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*NOTE: Audio comments from U.S. Attorney Todd P. Graves are available in MP3 format at the district's Web site, [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)*

**OPERATION X-POSED**  
**16 DEFENDANTS INDICTED IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI'S  
LARGEST ECSTASY RING**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that 16 defendants have been indicted by a federal grand jury in an investigation into ecstasy, cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking in Greene County.

“This was the largest ecstasy ring ever prosecuted in southwest Missouri,” Graves said. “Operation X-Posed was a long-term, multi-agency investigation into the distribution of tens of thousands of ecstasy tablets throughout southwest Missouri, as well as the Kansas City and St. Louis areas.”

The indictments also charge some defendants with distributing cocaine and methamphetamine, as well as money laundering and firearms violations. The indictments seek the forfeiture of several vehicles and nearly \$400,000 in cash, all of which was allegedly derived from illegal drug sales or used in the conspiracy to distribute illegal drugs.

A series of five indictments were returned under seal by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield last week. Those indictments were unsealed and made public today. Many of those defendants, mostly residents of Springfield, were arrested yesterday and today, appearing in federal court this afternoon.

Graves explained that some of the 16 defendants charged in Operation X-Posed are named in more than one indictment, because they were involved in multiple conspiracies.

United States v. Merriman, et al

**Corey J. Merriman**, 26, **Jonathan C. Davis**, 23, **Anthony J. Ford**, 32, **Ricky J. Smith**, 25, **Damon Z. Robirts**, 24, and **Monica L. Losack**, 23, all of Springfield, were charged in an eight-count indictment.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all six of the defendants were involved in a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy in Greene County between April 2001 and Sept. 11, 2001.

In addition, **Merriman** is also charged with three counts related to money laundering.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Merriman** conspired to conduct financial transactions that involved the proceeds of the illegal ecstasy distribution. The indictment alleges that **Merriman** obtained ecstasy for the purpose of redistributing it to the other five co-defendants. **Merriman** allegedly used those proceeds to pay his supplier, to purchase more ecstasy, and for deposit into his personal bank account. **Merriman** also deposited drug proceeds directly into the personal bank account of his supplier, the indictment alleges.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Merriman** wired \$2,435, which involved the proceeds of illegal ecstasy distribution, from his bank account to the bank account of his supplier.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Merriman** wired \$101.10, which involved the proceeds of illegal ecstasy distribution, to rent a hotel room in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the purpose of furthering the distribution of ecstasy.

Graves explained that **Robert P. Sanchez**, 27, of California, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on March 11, 2003. That indictment alleges that **Sanchez** supplied ecstasy to **Merriman** and others. According to that indictment, **Merriman** paid **Sanchez** more than \$100,000 between February and December, 2001.

In addition, **Smith** is charged with three counts of distributing ecstasy. **Losack** is also charged with three counts of distributing ecstasy. **Robirts** is also charged with one count of distributing ecstasy.

Count Eight of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Davis**, **Ford** and **Smith** to forfeit to the United States any proceeds from their ecstasy distribution, or any property used to commit the violation alleged in Count One, including \$300,000, a 1997 Jeep Wrangler owned by **Davis**, believed to have been sold and replaced by a 1997 Eagle two-door sedan, a 1996 Nissan Pathfinder owned by **Ford**, and a 2000 GMC sport utility vehicle owned by **Smith**.

United States v. Matthews, et al

**Andrew G. Matthews**, 42, and **Meg Thibodeaux**, 29, both of Brooklyn, New York;

**Ford, Davis, Sean C. Fannin**, 36, and **Kyle Woods**, 22, all of Springfield; and **Brandon Smith**, 23, and **Nathan L. Tomlinson**, 23, addresses unknown; were charged in a 15-count indictment.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all eight of the defendants were involved in a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy in Greene County between April 2001 and March 2002.

In addition, **Tomlinson** is charged with three counts of distributing ecstasy, three counts of distributing cocaine, and one count of possession of cocaine and methamphetamine. **Woods** is also charged with five counts of distributing ecstasy. **Smith** is also charged with one count of distributing ecstasy.

Count Fifteen of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Davis** and **Ford** to forfeit to the United States any proceeds from their ecstasy distribution, or any property used to commit the violation alleged in Count One, including \$87,750, a 1997 Jeep Wrangler owned by **Davis**, believed to have been sold and replaced by a 1997 Eagle two-door sedan, and a 1996 Nissan Pathfinder owned by **Ford**.

*United States v. Ford, et al*

**Ford** and **Davis** were charged in a two-count indictment.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Ford** and **Davis** possessed cocaine with intent to distribute in Greene County on July 4, 2002.

Count Two of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Davis** and **Ford** to forfeit to the United States any proceeds from their ecstasy distribution, or any property used to commit the violation alleged in Count One, including a 1997 Jeep Wrangler owned by **Davis**, believed to have been sold and replaced by a 1997 Eagle two-door sedan, and a 1996 Nissan Pathfinder owned by **Ford**.

*United States v. Vuori, et al*

**Adam R. Vuori**, also known as Tank Dog, 28, **Bobby E. McGraw**, also known as Boxer Bobby, 28, and **Christopher L. McClain**, also known as DJ Mechanic, 29, all of Springfield, were charged in a 15-count indictment.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all three defendants conspired to distribute ecstasy and 50 grams or more of methamphetamine in Greene County between January 2002 and April 2002.

In addition, **McClain** is charged with three counts of distributing methamphetamine and two counts of distributing ecstasy. **McClain** is also charged with one count of carrying a .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun in relation to the offense of distributing ecstasy. **Vuori** is also charged with five counts of distributing methamphetamine. **McGraw** is also charged with three counts of distributing ecstasy and one count of distributing methamphetamine.

United States v. Henry, et al

**David F. Henry**, also known as Red, 23, of Springfield, and **McClain** were charged in a four-count indictment.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Henry** and **McClain** conspired to distribute ecstasy in Greene County between March 1, 2002, and April 12, 2002.

In addition, **McClain** is charged with one count of distributing ecstasy and one count of carrying a .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun in relation to the conspiracy to distribute ecstasy. **Henry** is also charged with two counts of distributing ecstasy.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn L. McKee. The case was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)