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**Just the Facts**

Friday, February 24, 2017  
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**Hoopeston man to spend life in prison for drug trafficking**

URBANA, Ill. -- Jose Jaime Lopez, aka "JJ," 37, of the 800 block of West Penn St., Hoopeston, has been ordered to serve the rest of his life in federal prison for trafficking crystal meth and cocaine in Champaign, as announced by Patrick D. Hansen, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Lopez has been in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service since his federal arrest in January 2016. U.S. District Judge Colin S. Bruce sentenced Lopez on February 17.

On November 3, 2016, a jury found Lopez guilty of distribution of cocaine and methamphetamine, as well as attempted possession of methamphetamine with intent to

distribute.

During three days of trial, the government presented evidence to establish that in October 2014, Lopez arranged with a Mexican drug cartel member in Houston, to obtain approximately 10 ounces of crystal methamphetamine, also known as "ice." Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) intercepted phone calls between Lopez and the cartel member.

On Oct. 3, 2014, agents of the DEA and Champaign Police Department seized 272.5 grams of nearly 100 percent pure crystal methamphetamine from a drug courier in Rantoul. The courier was transporting the crystal meth to Lopez in Hoopeston so Lopez could distribute it in central Illinois.

Later, in November and December 2015, agents used a confidential informant to purchase two ounces of powder cocaine, 18 grams of ice, and 30 grams of ice, respectively, from Lopez in the parking lots of businesses on North Prospect Street in Champaign.

On January 6, 2016, agents executed a search warrant at Lopez's Hoopeston residence and found numerous items associated with drug trafficking.

At the time the drug trafficking offenses occurred, Lopez  
See **TRAFFICKING** on other side

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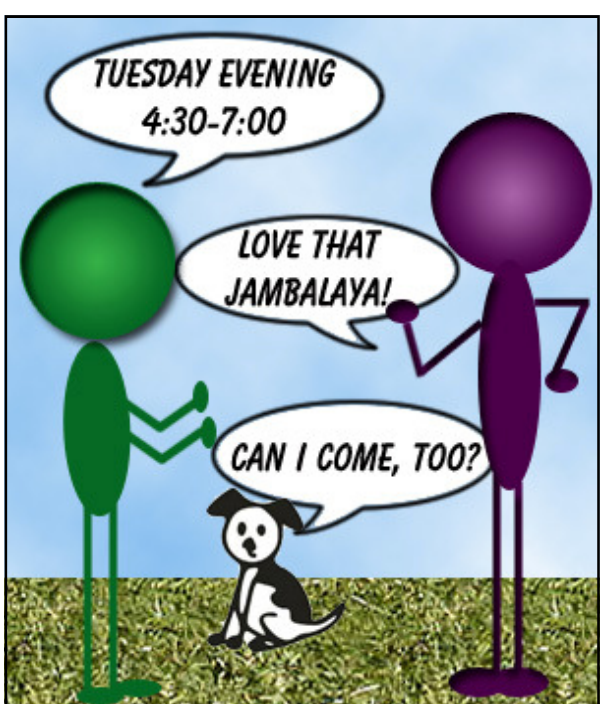
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86118	Fuel	Detroit 75 on Pri	T915	\$4.01
87222	Air	Bobcat Case Ford	A39346	\$9.26
85970	Oil	Cummins Full Flow	LF670	\$9.24
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**Hoopeston American Legion**

**Texas Hold 'Em**

Sunday, March 5

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## Trafficking continued from other side

pez was on federal supervised release for a 2002 federal drug trafficking conviction, as well as state bond for aggravated fleeing from a police officer.

He was also ordered to serve five years in prison, to be served concurrent with the life sentence, for violating federal supervised release.

Lopez also has a prior felony drug conviction in Texas, as well as two Vermilion County convictions for aggravated battery of a police officer and driving under the

influence of alcohol.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney

## Cornjerkers, Blue Devils to face off in 2A regional final

A last-minute shot by freshman Lucas Hofer boosted the Cornjerkers to a 35-33 win over Westville and into the championship game of the Bismarck-Henning Regional.

Hoopeston Area goes into the final game at 23-4. The team carried only one loss this season until February, when illness and injury - an appendectomy for Logan Walder, Bailey Crose's concussion, bronchitis for Ryan Drayer's and the flu struck Riley Wyss and Trey Layden - resulted in three consecutive losses in a seven-day period.

The team has regained its health and won its last two games heading into Wednesday's game.

Bismarck-Henning (21-9) has home court advantage on Friday, which will mark the fourth matchup between the teams this season. Hoopeston outplayed the Blue Devils for two of those contests. Bismarck's win came during

Eugene L. Miller. The U.S. DEA and the Champaign Police Department investigated the case.

the Cornjerkers off week.

Friday's game tips off at 7 p.m. The winner will go on to Tuesday's Monticello sectional.

## From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday in the 900 block of West Penn. Police said Logan T. Garrett, 16, of Hoopeston, in a 2000 Ford Expedition, left the roadway and struck a "Slow Children at Play" cautionary sign owned by the City of Hoopeston.

## Weather

Breezy, chance of thunderstorms, then storms likely today. High 69. Tonight, chance of storms, then breezy. Low 30. tomorrow, mostly cloudy, breezy. High 35, low 22.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Hubbard Trail Country Club. Bartenders and Waitresses, experience preferred, flexible hours. Call 748-6521, leave a message and someone will call back with an interview time.

The Village of Rossville is accepting applications for Chief of Police until 5 p.m. Friday, March 10, 2017 at Rossville Municipal Building, 120 E. Attica St., Rossville, IL 60963, Mon.-Fri. 9a.m.-5 p.m. Candidates must complete application, submit resume and sign background check waiver. Candidates must possess F/T certification, strong administrative and people skills, reside within 30 miles of Rossville. Previous command experience helpful. EOE.

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