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GUAM DAILY POST • FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

Plea deal reveals California drug conspiracy

A plea deal between the federal government and Connie C. Tedtaotao, 50, was unsealed in the District Court of Guam on Thursday.

Tedtaotao faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and also could face a \$1,000,000 fine.

Tedtaotao admitted to participating in a conspiracy to bring methamphetamine from California to Guam between August 2014 and August 2015. California has been identified as a source state by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

A 2018 DEA risk assessment report indicated methamphetamine can be purchased for as low as \$10 a gram in the U.S., including California, and is sent to Guam where it is sold for between \$500 and \$750 per gram.

During this time, several packages of methamphetamine arrived on Guam for Tedtaotao and an unnamed co-conspirator to distribute, the plea agreement states.

Tedtaotao knew the packages contained methamphetamine.

The DEA tested the substance from one package picked up on July 7, 2015, coming from a state-side conspirator and determined it to be 25.7 grams of methamphetamine that was 99.4 percent pure.

Another mailed package that the defendant acknowledged was intended for her but sent to a relative on July 18, 2015, contained 10.13 grams of 94 percent pure methamphetamine.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 30. *(Daily Post Staff)*

Guam gets extension to comply with REAL ID

By Gaynor D. Daleno
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The government of Guam has received another extension to comply with the federal requirements to issue driver's licenses that comply with the REAL ID Act of 2015.

The new compliance date is April 10, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security stated in a letter to Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero on Jan. 12. DHS' website previously stated Guam's extension to comply with the law ended Jan. 10.

The post-9/11 law is aimed to ensure those who apply for driver's licenses or other government-issued IDs across the nation have the proper documents that show U.S. citizenship or legal immigration status to stay in the country, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security stated.

The federal government shutdown is part of the reason for Guam's extension.

DHS had been reviewing Guam's certification to issue REAL ID-compliant IDs, but that review has slowed, in part because of the "funding hiatus," Elizabeth Neumann, DHS assistant secretary for threat prevention and security policy, wrote in her Jan. 12 letter, referring to the partial government shutdown that has stretched for more than a month now.

"For the duration of this extension, through April 10, federal agencies may accept Guam-issued driver's licenses and ID cards for official purposes," Neumann wrote.

On Thursday, the Navy public affairs office on Guam announced that those seeking access to the Navy base as a guest, service provider, business or for other reasons must show REAL ID-compliant IDs starting Feb. 4.

Personnel who do not have a REAL ID may request base access by presenting a valid U.S. passport as an autho-

Authorized alternate form of identification, the Navy stated in a news release.

A REAL ID-compliant driver's license requires various documents, including:

- Proof of identity, such as a valid, unexpired U.S. passport; a valid, unexpired Permanent Resident Card, or a certified copy of a birth certificate filed with the State Office of Vital Statistics or equivalent agency in the individual's state of birth; or unexpired foreign passport with supporting document for legal presence;

- Proof of Social Security number including a Social Security ID, or W-2 or 1099 forms

- Proof of residency, including a mayor's letter, dated within the last 30 days and addressed to the Department of Revenue and Taxation, or Military Base Housing Services or Base Commander verification dated within last 30 days and addressed to DRT.

Plea deal in drug case unsealed

A 61-year-old man faces a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment but could receive substantially less because he has been cooperating with federal authorities since March 2018.

A plea agreement and information were unsealed in the District Court of Guam on Thursday in the case against Ernest Quenga.

Quenga pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distrib-

ute methamphetamine, admitting that he participated in a conspiracy to bring methamphetamine from California to Guam between January and August 2015.

According to the plea agreement Quenga signed in March 2018, he admitted that multiple packages of meth arrived on Guam and he distributed them. Between May and June 2015, Quenga received approximately 14 to 20 grams of methamphetamine from an unnamed co-conspirator in California.

In early July 2015, federal authorities intercepted a package contain-

ing methamphetamine that Quenga was expecting, court documents state.

Laboratory results from the Drug Enforcement Administration determined there was 27.5 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride with 99.4 percent purity.

As part of the plea deal, Quenga agreed to make a full, complete and truthful statement regarding his involvement in criminal conduct as well as the involvement of all others known to him. He also agreed to testify at any trials or hearings.

(Daily Post Staff)

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GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY

**Regular Board Meeting,
Tuesday, January 29, 2019
at 8:30 AM**

at the Terlaje Professional Building, 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagatna, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

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GUAM DAILY POST • TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

ATM skimmer arrives in Rome



MARINELLI: Nicola Marinelli, the 27-year-old man arrested in connection with installing skimming devices on ATMs on Guam, is shown during a hearing in August 2018. Post file photo

By John O'Connor
john@postguam.com

Nicola Marinelli, the Italian national who pleaded guilty to placing skimming devices on ATMs on Guam, arrived in Rome, Italy, last week as part of a federal removal order.

He is permanently barred from entering the United States, including Guam.

Marinelli was sentenced in early January to two years in prison but received credit for time served and the remaining balance suspended.

He also was ordered to serve two years of probation and 50 hours of community service.

However, he was later detained

by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and subjected to deportation proceedings.

Arrested in August

Marinelli was arrested in August 2018 after a Bank of Guam manager picking up pizza in Tamuning saw a man who matched the description of an ATM skimming suspect. Photos and surveillance footage released by the FBI had been circulating on social media.

According to the indictment, Marinelli installed scanning devices at Bank of Guam ATMs located in the Micronesia Mall and in a Subway restaurant in Agat.

He told authorities he had been recruited by someone with possible

ties to organized crime in Italy, according to a magistrate's complaint.

Through an interpreter, Marinelli admitted to police he had been having financial difficulties, wrote Assistant Attorney General Monica Jo Aguon, in a declaration in support of the complaint.

The "defendant further admitted that a male known to him only as 'Michele' approached him in Italy and asked if he could place skimming devices on Guam," the declaration states. "Defendant indicated to police that 'Michele' might have connections to organized crime in Italy."

Marinelli told authorities he arrived on Guam on Aug. 1, 2018, with three skimming devices.

Attendance spikes at 2019 MLK day of service

By Lannie Walker
lannie@postguam.com

Attendance for the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service held at Agana Shopping Center "from the looks of it" nearly doubled from last year, according to Alicia Aguon, a board member on the Serve Guam Commission.

By late morning the center court of the shopping center was brimming with high school students looking to learn more about volunteering in the community.

"Basically, what it does is it creates awareness in the community of what programs are out there that the Serve Guam Commission deems qualified," Aguon said of the event.

The students were given "pass-ports" to keep track of the various booths they visited.

"It shows the student attended your table and asked about your program and is educating themselves about the program," Aguon said.

AmeriCorps volunteers

The Serve Guam Commission administers the AmeriCorps program, a network of service programs built



WAVE: Students from various student organizations joined AmeriCorps volunteers for the Martin Luther King Jr. Wave on Monday morning at the intersection of Route 4 and West O'Brien Drive in Hagåtña. The wave was part of the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event at the Agana Shopping Center in Hagåtña. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post



AGANA SHOPPING CENTER: Hundreds of people, many public school students, attended the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event Monday morning at the Agana Shopping Center in Hagåtña. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

on improving lives and fostering civic responsibility.

"The AmeriCorps programs in general are programs that look to make a difference in the community," said Charlene Bitlaol, program director for the AmeriCorps University of Guam volunteer center.

"Each program chooses specific focus areas through which they can concentrate their efforts on making a

bigger impact."

Bitlaol said holding the day of service on MLK Jr. Day is significant.

"Martin Luther King is about bringing communities together, so the idea is that when you volunteer you bring people of all walks of life together that wouldn't normally come together," said Bitlaol.

'Making an impact'

She said this is the first year the UOG volunteer center participated in the

day of service event.

"It gives the youth a sense of purpose and it gives them something to do besides making trouble in the community. They are actually making an impact to the people of Guam," she said.

Bitlaol said they also visited Okkodo High School and Tiyan High School to teach students about Martin Luther King Jr. "and the ideals he presented and he fought for that are prevalent in our communities today."

"What a great day to celebrate," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, who attended the event and signed a proclamation recognizing MLK Jr. Day.

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes and other members of the Legislature presented a resolution recognizing the Serve Guam Commission, the AmeriCorps programs and their partners in the Martin Luther King Day of Service.

THE GUAM PRESERVATION TRUST

SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY
JANUARY 29, 2019
3:00 P.M.

GPT CONFERENCE ROOM,
167 PADRE PALOMO ST., HAGATNA
The agenda for the Special Meeting is to address
Magua' Archaeological Site

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For Info Contact: 472-9439

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