1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING
3	In the Matter of the Cheyenne, Wyoming Naturalization and Granting of March 11, 2025 United States Citizenship to: 10:03 a.m.
-	
5	Jesus Aguilar Gomez; Jolene Leah Joseph C. O'Mahoney Young; Charinthip Welch; Heriberto Federal Center
6	Guzman Ramirez; İsidoro Perez Cheyenne, Wyoming Mendoza; Kannika Thianngern;
7	Jason Doyle Murdock; Rafael Antonio Cisneros Caballeros;
8	Daniel Perez Casillas; Emma Jane
9	Alexander; Primrose Vimbiso Garcia; Azat Akhmetov; Regina
10	Arthur; Ma Flora Perez; Rafael Flores Sanchez; Li Zhang;
11	and Maziar Arshadi,
12	Petitioners.
13	TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS ON PETITIONS FOR UNITED
	STATES CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION
14	BEFORE THE HONORABLE ALAN B. JOHNSON,
15	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE, Presiding THE HONORABLE SCOTT P. KLOSTERMAN,
16	CHIEF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE THE HONORABLE GREGORY A. PHILLIPS,
17	UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE
18	APPEARANCES:
19	For the United States: OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF WYOMING
20	BY: JASMINE PETERS Assistant United States Attorney
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22	
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	Proceedings reported with realtime stenography;
25	transcript produced with computer-aided transcription.

(Proceedings commenced 10:03 a.m., March 11, 2025.)

CLERK OF COURT BOTKINS: All rise.

Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye. The United States

District Court for the District of Wyoming is now open for the transaction of business pursuant to adjournment, the Honorable Alan B. Johnson, United States District Judge, presiding; along with the Honorable Gregory A. Phillips, United States

Circuit Judge; and the Honorable Scott P. Klosterman, Chief United States Magistrate Judge.

All having business before this honorable court draw near, give attention, and you shall be heard. God save the United States of America and this honorable court.

JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

Please be seated for a moment.

This is one of the really happy occasions that we celebrate in the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming. These citizenship ceremonies are a special time for the Judges of this court and the court family.

I'm very pleased to have with me today and honored to have with me a member of the Tenth Circuit Court, Gregory Phillips, who is stationed here in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and represents the state on that honorable court; and our newest member of the court family, Scott Klosterman, who is the Chief Magistrate Judge for the District of Wyoming; and, also, send

along greetings from our Chief District Judge, Scott Skavdahl, who's stationed in Casper, Wyoming; and our Senior United States District Judge, Nancy Freudenthal, who is not with us here today but certainly wishes that she was because she enjoys these ceremonies so much.

So often the court family and the court is involved in issues of failure. We are presiding over the bones of something that went wrong, a contract or a motor vehicle accident on the interstate highway or a criminal case where someone has strayed over the line and we are there to react to that sad situation.

But this is a situation of success, of happiness and pride and achievement, and we are so pleased to be a part of this, and we hope that this court will continue to participate in these important ceremonies as we welcome the strength and vigor of new citizens who come to this country and bring their minds and lives to this nation and begin to perform their duties as citizens of this nation.

Well, I'd invite all of you to please stand as we honor the colors of the United States of America.

(Colors posted.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: And now we'll have our nation's anthem sung by the Seriously Trebled quartet.

(Star Spangled Banner performed.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: Wow. Thank you.

(Applause.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you. Please be seated.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank the Wyoming
National Guard for the colors presentation today. That colors
ceremony was presented by Tech Sergeant McKenzie Stensaas,
Staff Sergeant Davion Grays, Senior Airman Camille Biancalana,
and Airman First Class Janet Mata Torres.

So we thank the Wyoming National Guard for their service and for -- the National Guard families -- for their service 24/7 to the people of Wyoming.

And, also, we wish to welcome for the first time
Seriously Trebled, a Cheyenne Harmony chorus quartet. And
Thyra Nagy is the lead; Teri Stevens, bass; De Anna Greene,
baritone; and LuWana DePorter, tenor.

And thank you, ladies, for a lovely presentation of our National Anthem.

In order to start the important proceedings today, the chief law enforcement officer of the Federal system in Wyoming is the United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming.

Our acting United States Attorney is Stephanie

Sprecher, who is stationed in Casper, Wyoming, but today, from our building up on the fifth floor, we wish to welcome and recognize Jasmine Peters and ask that she make the appropriate roll call and motion in this matter.

1	And we'd ask each of the candidates for new
2	citizenship to please stand as your name is called.
3	MS. PETERS: Good morning and thank you.
4	My name is Jasmine Peters, and I'm here today on
5	behalf of the United States Attorney's Office for the
6	District of Wyoming and in proxy for the Attorney General of
7	the United States.
8	It is my pleasure and my privilege to introduce to
9	the Court today 17 individuals who appear in person for a
10	hearing on their petitions for naturalization as United States
11	citizens.
12	Jesus Aguilar Gomez, a native and former inhabitant
13	of Mexico.
14	JUDGE JOHNSON: Please stand.
15	MS. PETERS: Jolene Leah Young, a former and native
16	inhabitant of Canada.
17	Charinthip Welch, a native and former inhabitant of
18	Thailand.
19	Heriberto Guzman Ramirez, a native and former
20	inhabitant of Mexico.
21	Isidoro Perez Mendoza, a native and former inhabitant
22	of Mexico.
23	Kannika Thianngern, a native and former inhabitant of
24	Thailand.
25	Jason Doyle Murdock, a native and former inhabitant

1	of Canada.
2	Rafael Cisneros Caballeros, a native and former
3	inhabitant of Guatemala.
4	Daniel Perez Casillas, a native and former inhabitant
5	of Mexico.
6	Emma Jane Alexander, a native and former inhabitant
7	of the United Kingdom.
8	Primrose Vimbiso Garcia, a native and former
9	inhabitant of Zimbabwe.
10	Azat Akhmetov, a native and former inhabitant of
11	Russia.
12	Regina Arthur, a native and former inhabitant of
13	Mexico.
14	Ma Flora Perez, a native and former inhabitant of
15	Mexico.
16	Rafael Flores Sanchez, a native and former inhabitant
17	of Mexico.
18	Li Zhang, a native and former inhabitant of China.
19	And Maziar Arshadi, a native and former inhabitant of
20	Iran.
21	These individuals have been interviewed and examined
22	under oath by a designated examiner for United States
23	Citizenship and Immigration Services, who have also completed
24	their character and background investigations.

Citizenship and Immigration Services indicates that

these individuals have met all requirements for naturalization and are well-qualified, desirable candidates for United States citizenship.

While I was born in the United States many years ago, I remember being in a courtroom similar to this when my father became naturalized. I appreciate and have great respect for the process that you all are going through today, and I want to acknowledge that achievement. As a fellow United States citizen, I want to welcome and congratulate you on this very special occasion.

Your Honor, at this time and on recognition of the immigration officer, I move for these petitioners to be granted United States citizenship upon taking of the oath.

 ${\tt JUDGE\ JOHNSON:} \quad {\tt The\ motion\ is\ granted}.$

Thank you, Ms. Peters, for your presentation this morning and the motion that you have made on their behalf.

I understand that one of our new citizens to be upon taking the oath drove all the way from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, this morning to be here, Mr. Jesus Aguilar Gomez.

Telephone calls were made to Denver, and his certificate will be mailed to him overnight so that he'll receive it by the time he gets back to Jackson following this long trip to Cheyenne for this ceremony, this important ceremony in his life.

I neglected to tell everyone in the audience who may

be here as a family member or relative or friend we suspend for these ceremonies the requirement that nobody take photographs. So you are all perfectly free to stand and move about and take photographs as we move forward with this ceremony, and you can even come through that gate if you need to and go over into a corner or around here for a better view or a better photograph. Or, after the ceremony, we can all gather around the flag and take other photographs as a memorial of what is happening at this time.

So now it will be my great honor to present and require each of our nominees for citizenship to raise their right hands and take the oath.

And for you who are citizens by birth in the audience, pay attention because these are your duties as citizens. You have not been required to take this oath, but the duties are exactly the same.

Please repeat after me: I hereby declare on oath . . . that I absolutely and entirely . . . renounce and abjure . . . all allegiances and fidelity . . . to any foreign prince or potentate, state, or sovereignty . . . state or sovereignty . . . of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject . . . or a citizen . . . that I will support and defend . . . the Constitution and laws . . . of the United States of America . . . against all enemies . . . foreign and domestic . . . that I will bear true faith and

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allegiance . . . to the same . . . that I will bear arms on
 1
 2
     behalf of the United States . . . when required by law . . .
 3
     that I will perform noncombatant service . . . in the armed
 4
     forces of the United States . . . when required by law . . .
 5
     that I will perform work of national importance . . . under
6
     civil direction . . . when required by law . . . and that
7
     I take this obligation freely . . . without any mental
8
     reservation . . . or purpose of evasion . . . so help me God.
9
              Congratulations. You have taken the lengthy oath,
10
     and you are now officially citizens of the United States of
11
     North America.
12
         (Applause.)
13
              JUDGE JOHNSON:
                              I have the certificates to present to
14
     each of our new citizens as we go forward here, and I think --
15
    Your Honors, accompany me.
16
              I would like to invite the representatives of the
17
     patriotic organizations who will be making presentations to
18
     come forward.
19
              You can do the first one.
20
              MS. PETERS: Jesus Aguilar Gomez.
21
         (Applause.)
22
              MS. PETERS: Jolene Leah Young.
23
         (Applause.)
24
              MS. PETERS: Charinthip Welch.
25
         (Applause.)
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MS. PETERS:
                            Heriberto Guzman Ramirez.
 1
2
         (Applause.)
              MS. PETERS:
                            Isidoro Perez Mendoza.
 3
         (Applause.)
 4
              MS. PETERS:
 5
                            Kannika Thianngern.
6
         (Applause.)
                            Jason Doyle Murdock.
7
              MS. PETERS:
8
         (Applause.)
9
              MS. PETERS:
                            Rafael Cisneros Caballeros.
10
         (Applause.)
11
              MS. PETERS:
                            Daniel Perez Casillas.
12
         (Applause.)
13
              MS. PETERS:
                            Emma Jane Alexander.
14
         (Applause.)
15
              MS. PETERS: Primrose Vimbiso Garcia.
16
         (Applause.)
17
              MS. PETERS: Azat Akhmetov.
18
         (Applause.)
19
              MS. PETERS:
                            Regina Arthur.
20
         (Applause.)
21
              MS. PETERS:
                            Ma Flora Perez.
22
         (Applause.)
23
              MS. PETERS:
                            Rafael Flores Sanchez.
24
         (Applause.)
25
              MS. PETERS:
                            Li Zhang.
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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. PETERS: Maziar Arshadi.

(Applause.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, as the first official act of our new citizens, I'd invite everyone present to stand and turn towards the flag of our nation and recite the Pledge.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you. Please be seated, ladies and gentlemen.

These ceremonies could not occur or be as successful as they have been down through the many years without the participation of patriotic organizations that come here and are a part, an important part, of these proceedings, so I wish to express deep appreciation for their work in instilling the information about our lives and about our nation to our new citizens and our government that they live under.

I also want to thank the representative of our Senators and our Congressman -- Senator John Barrasso, Senator Cynthia Lummis, and Harriet Hageman, our Congressman -- for their presence here today and the certificates that have been provided to each of our new citizens.

I would mention that the Daughters of the American Revolution are located down on the first floor, and, immediately after the ceremony today, as you go down the elevator, just step right across into the space of what used

to be the lobby of the post office but no longer is, and there will be refreshments and an opportunity for all of us to get better acquainted and to mingle together for a few minutes to celebrate further this important event.

Now, this is a special time for each one of you as -in your lives, and I'd like to invite you to speak. You've
heard enough of me for the moment. And anyone who wishes to
express their thoughts on this occasion in their lives, we
have a microphone here that Abby Logan has in her hand, and we
would invite you to come up and tell us how you feel or a
little bit about yourself and your journey to this important
day.

So anyone who is so inclined to speak, you're certainly invited. And I know family and friends, as well as all of us in the court family, would really love to hear from you, anything that you would like to say on this occasion.

(No response.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: Who's going to break the ice?
Thank you.

MAZIAR ARSHADI: Your Honor, they put me on the spot, so I'm just taking this for the team.

Well, I think my story is kind of shared with maybe a lot of people here that are sitting, so I come with -- from very humble beginnings, came here pretty young, 20 years old, a student, pursuing my dreams.

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1
              And this country and Wyoming has been home for me,
 2
    basically. I met my beautiful wife here. I got married;
 3
     I graduated; I got a job.
              So this country and this state, especially Wyoming,
 4
 5
    has given me so much opportunity. So for that I'm -- I'm most
6
    grateful.
7
              Thank you.
8
         (Applause.)
9
              JUDGE JOHNSON: Mr. Aguilar.
10
              JESUS AGUILAR GOMEZ: Hi. I want to say, to
11
    everybody here, thank you for the opportunity.
12
              Something happened today. I'm known the least.
13
     I'm here. I want to say I appreciate it for the opportunity.
14
              I'm so exciting. I'm very nervous.
                                                   But I remember
15
    when I stayed with the office in my case and I went in and
16
     forgot my question and learning all the time and I'm driving
17
    to Jackson and Casper.
18
              So I'm very nervous but I told the officer like
19
    thank you for the opportunity. I'm good to press on.
                                                            I'm --
20
    very honestly, all my community. I want to say thank you for
21
    my mother because I remember when she was coming the first
22
    time here. And like thank you for the opportunity.
23
              Thank you.
24
              JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you.
25
         (Applause.)
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1	ADMINISTRATOR LOGAN: Anybody?
2	JUDGE JOHNSON: Is there anyone else who would like
3	to speak?
4	EMMA JANE ALEXANDER: Well, good morning. I'll be
5	ever so swift.
6	I just wanted to say thank you very much indeed. I'm
7	deeply appreciative for the opportunity to become a citizen
8	today and specifically for the wonderful warm welcome. It's
9	incredible and makes such a big impact.
10	Thank you very much indeed.
11	JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you.
12	(Applause.)
13	JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, thank you for being here.
14	JOLENE LEAH YOUNG: Hi. My name's Jolene Young. I'm
15	from Wheatland, Wyoming, just about an hour north of here, and
16	I'm so excited.
17	My story, I'm sure, is a bit different from
18	everyone's. I've been here for a long time but like I just
19	wanted to cheer. So like woo-hoo. Let's cheer.
20	Thank you, everybody.
21	(Applause.)
22	JUDGE JOHNSON: Anybody else feel like cheering?
23	(Laughter.)
24	JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, thank you very much for your
25	remarks and your thoughts about your new status as citizens.

1 Well, I'd like to hear from our Judges today.

Judge Klosterman, do you have some remarks for us?

JUDGE KLOSTERMAN: Yes.

Thank you, Judge Johnson. And welcome, everyone, to today's ceremony.

As Judge Johnson has indicated, this is a very fun and happy day for us as Judges. Sometimes we deal with much heavier issues, but here on a day -- we're here to celebrate you and your new citizenship.

And I know, for many of you, you've come from various places from around the world to be here as a new United States citizen, but, also, you've come from various places from around Wyoming. And we want to acknowledge and appreciate your efforts that you have taken to make the choice and the decision to become a United States citizen.

We know it takes a lot of bravery and courage to make this decision. There's lots of reasons that can inhibit people from becoming United States citizens. There's cultural barriers, there's political barriers, there's language barriers, all of which you've decided to take a risk and brave and come forward to go through this process.

We, as Judges, appreciate the fact that, not only as citizens of this -- of this great country, that we can all learn from one another. We can learn from your own customs; we can learn from your traditions; we can learn from your ways

of practicing life. All of that enriches us as a nation and as a country.

And as I was thinking about what words I may want to visit with you about here today, I came back to some words that are in the preamble to our Constitution, and those three words are "We, the people."

That phrase isn't narrow by definition. It is inclusive of all, and we welcome you as men, women, and children of every race, gender, and nationality. But, as citizens of this great country, we have rights and responsibilities and obligations.

And one of the things that I would encourage you to do as a new citizen is to become involved, to participate. There are many new things, as a citizen, you will be afforded the opportunity, and one of which is the ability to vote and the ability to potentially serve as jurors in cases that come before this court or other courts in the great state of Wyoming. Those are responsibilities that we hope that you take seriously and embrace.

As citizens, I ask that you love and cherish this great country, that you honor and protect it, and that you embrace all of the possibilities that you are given.

It's a great day today, and we welcome you to this great country and thank you for being brave and courageous to come forward to become citizens of this great nation.

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: Judge Phillips, I'd like to hear from you.

JUDGE PHILLIPS: Well, thank you, Judge Johnson.

It is very much a pleasure to be here with you today. As Judge Johnson says, we don't get that many occasions where we see this many smiling faces and with good reason so -- an honor to be here with you and to salute you for your achievement.

It's not a -- you don't snap your fingers and end up in the chairs that you're sitting in now. It takes a lot of work, and it takes a lot of success and dedication to get here. And so many people around the world would be very jealous that you are here today and what you have achieved, and we -- we look forward to welcoming people like them who have achieved as you have.

One of my favorite parts of the ceremony is

Ms. Peters as she speaks of her father being sworn in because
you can just kind of close your eyes and see the ceremony. We
all have that in our backgrounds, and we have someone we look
back to -- or more than one person -- who made the trek and
endured the hardships and overcame the obstacles and,
therefore, led to a better life for all of us.

And, in many ways, that's who you are today. If you

come back to the courtroom in 50 years, there will be people who are remembering you.

The main point is that we're much stronger as a country with you than we were without you. We get stronger every time we receive the diversity of experiences and thought and, frankly, appreciation for what we have in this country when a group joins us such as yourselves.

So happy day. I can't cheer as well as you can but -- unless we score a touchdown or something and then I doubt it, either. But in my heart I'm cheering every one of you for what you've done.

Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, I'd like to invite Seriously
Troubled -- Trebled -- to come forward and perform -- dare I
say it? -- a second version of a national anthem that we all
love, as well.

(God Bless the USA performed.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: I guess it's my turn.

It's been an honor to be here at this final step in the long journeys to become a citizen that each of you have taken.

Your oath to accept the duties and sacrifices that citizenship in this nation may require, to be present to celebrate with you and with your families and friends is a

special occasion indeed.

This is a day the United States should celebrate, as well. By taking the oath and accepting the benefits and duties of citizenship, you have strengthened this nation with your presence, your energy, and all that you have brought from your homeland to contribute to the work and culture of the United States. History confirms the benefits to society that it receives from the diverse population coming here to better their lives and the lives of their families.

I can't help but wonder that you, like me, may be bewildered by the issues that affect our lives and responsibilities as citizens. We are bombarded with information from many sources, often conflicting, questionable, sometimes seeking to take advantage of us, other times beneficial. How to sort through it all and make decisions that we, as citizens, need to take is sometimes difficult.

Famous figures in our shared history have, in one form or another, expressed the belief that the status of citizen in the United States of America is preeminent.

Perhaps Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis was the first when, early in his career, he said the most important political office is that of the private citizen.

Brandeis, on the bench of the Supreme Court, championed the belief that American citizens have the right to

be let alone by our government in their thoughts, their emotions, and their sensations. Now his thoughts are part of the basis of our discussions about privacy and our right to be private.

Later, another revered justice, Felix Frankfurter, once said in a democracy the highest office is the office of citizen.

What do these remarks mean to all of us who are living our lives each day and facing the challenges of putting bread on the table, finding jobs, and a good place for our families in our communities? What were Brandeis and Frankfurter thinking when they made these statements about the importance of being a citizen?

Every citizen knows that we are expected to obey the law, local, State, and Federal. We pay taxes on our income, and, if we are fortunate to have property, we pay taxes on that, too.

We are told that we should vote, but many fail to exercise that important duty. And we might consider running for a public office or participating in the life of our communities in other ways.

The 44th president, Barack Obama -- Barack Obama -- in his farewell speech expressed this concern: For too many of us it becomes safer to retreat into our own bubbles, whether in our neighborhoods or on college campuses or places

of worship or especially our social media feeds, surrounded by people who look like us and share the same political outlook, and never challenge our assumptions. And, increasingly, we become so secure in our bubbles that we start accepting only information, whether it is true or not, that fits our opinions instead of basing our opinions on the evidence that is out there.

The former president is concerned that, if the citizen does not actively reach out, educate one's self seeking truth and speaking to others outside of one's group, our shared democracy will fail and we will lose in the daily battle of ideas.

According to Joel K. Goldstein, Brandeis believed that living in civil society imposed obligations on citizens that went well beyond the basic duties to obey the law, pay taxes, and vote. He thought engagement to be an obligation of citizenship and knowledge an obligation and a likely consequence of engagement.

Like Obama, Brandeis envisioned the duty of each citizen to become engaged in their community as a means to broaden knowledge and experiences, leading to a better appreciation of others and as a means of societal growth.

It is the duty of the citizen to use the time that we are let alone by government to learn, to find truth -- true facts -- and to move out of our personal bubbles. Remember, a

president once said, for all our outward differences, we are, in fact -- all share the same proud title. The most important office in a democracy is the citizen.

So, you see, that's what our democracy demands. It needs you, not just when there's an election, not just when your own narrow interests is at stake, but over the full span of a lifetime.

If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the internet, try talking with one of them in real life. If something needs fixing up, then lace up your shoes and do some organizing. If you are disappointed by your elected officials, grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office.

Show up, dive in, and stay at it. There are 519,682 political offices in America, and countless other opportunities exist in nonprofit organizations. They all need your support. Just consider the opportunities that exist for each of you, for your service, your valuable service, your minds, your energies, as we perform our shared duties as citizens.

I wish you all happiness in your lives. I wish you success. And I hope that you'll all take your duties seriously and join us in those efforts going forward.

God bless.

(Applause.)

JUDGE JOHNSON: Well, we come to the end of this wonderful ceremony at this point for all these folks as they join their families and friends and their celebration commences. Remember, downstairs, right across from the elevator, there will be a reception sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Please, let's all go down and celebrate together. CLERK OF COURT BOTKINS: All rise. This Honorable United States District Court for the District of Wyoming now stands adjourned, subject to call. (Proceedings concluded 10:53 a.m., March 11, 2025.)

1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	
4	I, MELANIE HUMPHREY-SONNTAG, Federal Official Court
5	Reporter for the United States District Court for the District
6	of Wyoming, a Registered Diplomate Reporter, Certified
7	Realtime Reporter, and Certified Realtime Captioner, do hereby
8	certify that I reported by realtime stenography the foregoing
9	proceedings contained herein on the aforementioned subject on
10	the date herein set forth and that the foregoing pages
11	constitute a full, true, and correct transcript.
12	
13	Dated this 12th day of May, 2025.
14	
15	
16	
17	/s/ Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag
18	
19	MELANIE HUMPHREY-SONNTAG
20	RDR, CRR, CRC Federal Official Court Reporter
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	