

Pacific Daily News

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A GANNETT COMPANY

VOL. 44 NO. 320 HAGÁTÑA, GUAM, DECEMBER 17, 2012

HAGA ADAI, IT'S MONDAY

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■ Don't forget to vote in today's Pacific Daily News poll. Today's question:

Do you think elected officials are doing enough to address security gaps in our public schools?

■ Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on **PAGE 2**

240 days

since roadwork began at the Agaña Bridge

■ Southbound lanes have been shifted to the center median area adjacent to the northbound lanes.



HAGÁTÑA ROAD CLOSURES

■ All lanes are set to open again by July 2013. The overall project is set to be completed by December 2013.



CONNECTICUT MOURNS

After shooting in school, community seeks answers.

SEE STORY, **PAGE 10**

Victim: 'They forced me'

A Special Report

“ I was thinking that I should tell (my cousin) that we should run away but I couldn't tell her because I saw there were people keeping their eyes on us and if they found out what we were talking about they would tell mamasan. ”

— 21-year-old Blue House victim

“ She told me that if I leave work that night she would call for the police to look for me and arrest me then put me in jail. I believed her words and I was scared of being arrested and so I stayed and do as I was told to do, I went and sat with customers. ”

— 23-year-old Blue House victim



Blue House women detail life at brothel

By Brett Kelman
Pacific Daily News
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Nine women were forced into prostitution at the Blue House lounge, and each of them has a story.

Blue House was a brothel that masqueraded as a karaoke lounge in Tamuning for four years. The brothel was shut down by a police raid in 2008, but the local court case — which now includes allegations against three police officers — continues today.

INSIDE

■ At a glance: The charges, highlights of the case. **Page 3**

■ See Victims. Page 3



PHOTOS ONLINE

■ For more photos, go to www.guampdn.com.

ATM stolen from Taco Bell

By Cameron Miculka
Pacific Daily News
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Police and officials from the Bank of Hawaii are asking for the public's help in locating an ATM that was stolen from a Dededo Taco Bell yesterday morning.

Ron Cannoles, Bank of Hawaii executive vice president and Pacific Islands Division manager, said the bank was notified that an alarm had tripped at the Taco Bell in Dededo around 4:40 a.m. yesterday where

HOW TO HELP

■ If you have information about the ATM theft, call police at 472-8911 or phone in an anonymous tip to Guam Crime Stoppers at 477-4357 (HELP). Crime Stoppers doesn't use Caller ID. There is a \$1,000 cash reward for any information that leads to an arrest and conviction.

one of the bank's stand-alone ATMs was located.

Cannoles said the burglars broke into the restaurant and made off with the machine.

Upon discovering the theft, the bank notified the police.

Because the theft is under investigation, Cannoles said he couldn't reveal how much cash was in the machine or the value of the machine itself.

He did say investigators found parts of the ATM near Tanota Apartments and by Mid-Pacific Far East Inc. in Dededo.

He asked that anyone who was in the area and may have seen something, or heard anything about this crime, contact police.



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

More than 200 students earn degrees.

SEE STORY, **PAGE 2**

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Victims: 'I am relieved from torture'

Continued from Page 1

On the night of the police raid, some of the Blue House victims gave written statements to officers at the Tumon precinct. Later, other victims gave longer statements, which were folded into the Blue House case in the District Court of Guam.

Some of those statements describe how the women were lured from Chuuk. Others talk about how it took the women a few nights to realize what the Blue House lounge really was. Most of the statements explain that the women were trapped and powerless.

"And I did it because they forced me," wrote one victim, who was 21 when she began to work at the Blue House lounge. "... I also did it feeling painfully and tortured. (The Blue House owner) said that I cannot run away because she would call the police. Then I myself have sexual intercourse with 12 men in the (VIP) room. Then I kept on crying because they said I can't go see my relative's home."

'I got really scared'

In her written statement, the Blue House victim wrote that she was the daughter of a minister in Chuuk.

Life was hard but happy in Chuuk, she wrote. But in 2007, she and her cousin decided to leave their home island after they were promised work in a restaurant in Guam.

Soon the cousins were in the Guam airport, where some people they didn't know took away their passports and drove them to their new home. At Blue House, the women met Song Ja Cha, the owner of the lounge, who was called "mamasan" or "mamasang" by her workers.

After seeing the lounge, the women from Chuuk immediately wanted to return home, according to the written statement. In response, Cha said they would have to pay for passports and tickets to return home, so the cousins started working as waitresses at Blue House, not yet realizing the bar was a brothel.

For the first few nights, the 21-year-old victim didn't know what the private rooms were for, she wrote.

"I got really scared when I understood what the small rooms were for but I didn't even realize at that time ... that I would have to have sex with the customers," the victim wrote in her statement. "I was thinking that I should tell (my cousin) that we should run away but I couldn't tell her because I saw there were people keeping their eyes on us and

BLUE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Blue House lounge was a brothel that operated in Tamuning from 2004 to 2008.
- The brothel lured women from the Federal States of Micronesia to Guam by promising high-paying waitressing jobs, then forced the women into prostitution.
- Song Ja Cha, the brothel owner, was convicted of 20 federal crimes, all related to human trafficking and prostitution. Cha was sentenced to life in federal prison.
- Cha would control her victims through physical violence, withholding food, monitoring phones and threatening to have the women arrested. She confiscated their passports shortly after they arrived and forced them to take birth control shots.
- During Cha's trial, a federal prosecutor alleged police officers were used as "tools" and "weapons" to control the Blue House victims.
- Blue House supervisor Freda Eseun testified that three police officers frequented the brothel and were friends with Cha.
- One officer, David Manila, testified that he had sex with a Blue House employee after buying a "ladies drink." An internal police investigation later found that Manila was abetting prostitution. He was allowed to keep his job and remain on the force.
- After a series of Pacific Daily News stories on the case, the Guam Police Department re-opened the investigation into the Blue House in October. Police investigators worked in tandem with the Office of the Attorney General.
- In November, three officers were

if they found out what we were talking about they would tell mamasang."

After four nights of working at the lounge, Cha told the young woman to get drunk so she could "have a customer," according to the victim statement. The woman obeyed, and later that night had sex for the first time with a Blue House customer.

The victim said she "got really sick" after.

"I did not work for two weeks because I believe I was gonna die. I just stayed in my room at the back of the bar," the victim wrote in her statement. "At first mamasan seemed nice to me but then she would start scolding me again and tell me I'm just lying."

This victim wrote one of the most detailed accounts of what happened at Blue House — but she isn't alone.

'I believed her words'

Federal prosecutors have said that Cha routinely would threaten her



'Mamasan': Affidavits written by victims of the Blue House brothel show some of the personal struggles they endured. In this photograph, former brothel owner Song Ja Cha, center, glances at her former employee, Freda Eseun, left, in a Superior Court of Guam courtroom on Nov. 20. Pacific Daily News file photo

indicted — Mario Laxamana, Anthony Quenga and David Manila. They join Cha and Eseun in the Superior Court of Guam case, which is set for trial in January.

BLUE HOUSE CHARGES

The Blue House case in the Superior Court of Guam includes five suspects, 26 charges and more than 60 counts. Here is a breakdown of which suspects are facing which allegations:

All five suspects are facing these charges:

- Nine counts of felonious restraint as a third-degree felony
- Nine counts of compelling prosti-

tution as a third-degree felony
- Twelve counts of promoting prostitution as a third-degree felony
- The three police officer suspects face these charges:
- Conspiracy to commit kidnapping as a second-degree felony
- Nine counts of kidnapping as a second-degree felony
- Conspiracy to commit felonious restraint as a third-degree felony
- Conspiracy to compel prostitution as a third-degree felony
- Conspiracy to promote prostitution as a third-degree felony
- Solicitation to commit kidnapping as a second-degree felony
- Solicitation to commit felonious restraint as a third-degree felony
- Solicitation to compel prostitution as a third-degree felony

House for more than three years, but never got paid more than \$100 to \$300 per month, she wrote. The woman wrote that she had to resort to stealing bar chasers to eat.

The Blue House victims worked an average of 74 hours a week, without overtime, according to federal court documents.

"My first pay after one month of working was \$300," the victim wrote. "Mamasang showed me a paper showing that I earned \$1,000 but after deductions my pay came down to \$300 only. She explained that the deductions are for my airline ticket ... for my birth certificate, departure fee, for sleeping while on the job, for being late to work, for speaking Chuukese, for eating chasers, for using too much toilet tissue, for using toothpicks, for use of shampoo, for using the phone ..."

This victim also grew up in Chuuk, dreaming of becoming a doctor in the United States, according to her written statement. She also was lured to Guam by the promise of a high-paying job at a restaurant, according to her statement.

This woman came to Guam in March 2004. She worked at the Blue

House for more than three years, but never got paid more than \$100 to \$300 per month, she wrote. The woman wrote that she had to resort to stealing bar chasers to eat.

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- Solicitation to promote prostitution as a third-degree felony
 - Two counts attempt to compel prostitution as a third-degree felony
 - Criminal intimidation as a misdemeanor
 - Official misconduct as a misdemeanor
 - Abetting prostitution as a misdemeanor
 - Criminal facilitation as a misdemeanor
- As individuals, the suspects face these charges:

David Manila

- Two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony
- Two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony

Anthony Quenga

- First-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony
- Two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony
- Attempted first-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony
- Attempted second-degree criminal sexual conduct as a first-degree felony

Song Ja Cha

- Two counts of aggravated assault as a third-degree felony
- Assault as a misdemeanor

Freda Eseun

- Aggravated assault as a third-degree felony

Mario Laxamana

- No individual charges
- Superior Court of Guam files

they also provide a peek into the daily operations at the brothel.

There were six private rooms at the Blue House, according to federal prosecutors.

About 40 to 50 men went into the private rooms every night, wrote one victim, who worked at the Blue House lounge for about two months before the police raid.

"Then for myself about 10 to 20 men they force me to have sexual intercourse," the victim wrote. "I did it and I cried and if I didn't do it then they go out and complain then mamasang gets mad then she told me to get back. Then we are usually locked up in Blue House we cannot talk to our relatives then. Now I am happy I am relieved from torture."

The five suspects in the Blue House case are expected to go to trial in the Superior Court of Guam in January. Several motions to dismiss the case are pending, and lengthy legal arguments are scheduled for Dec. 24.

Pacific Daily News

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