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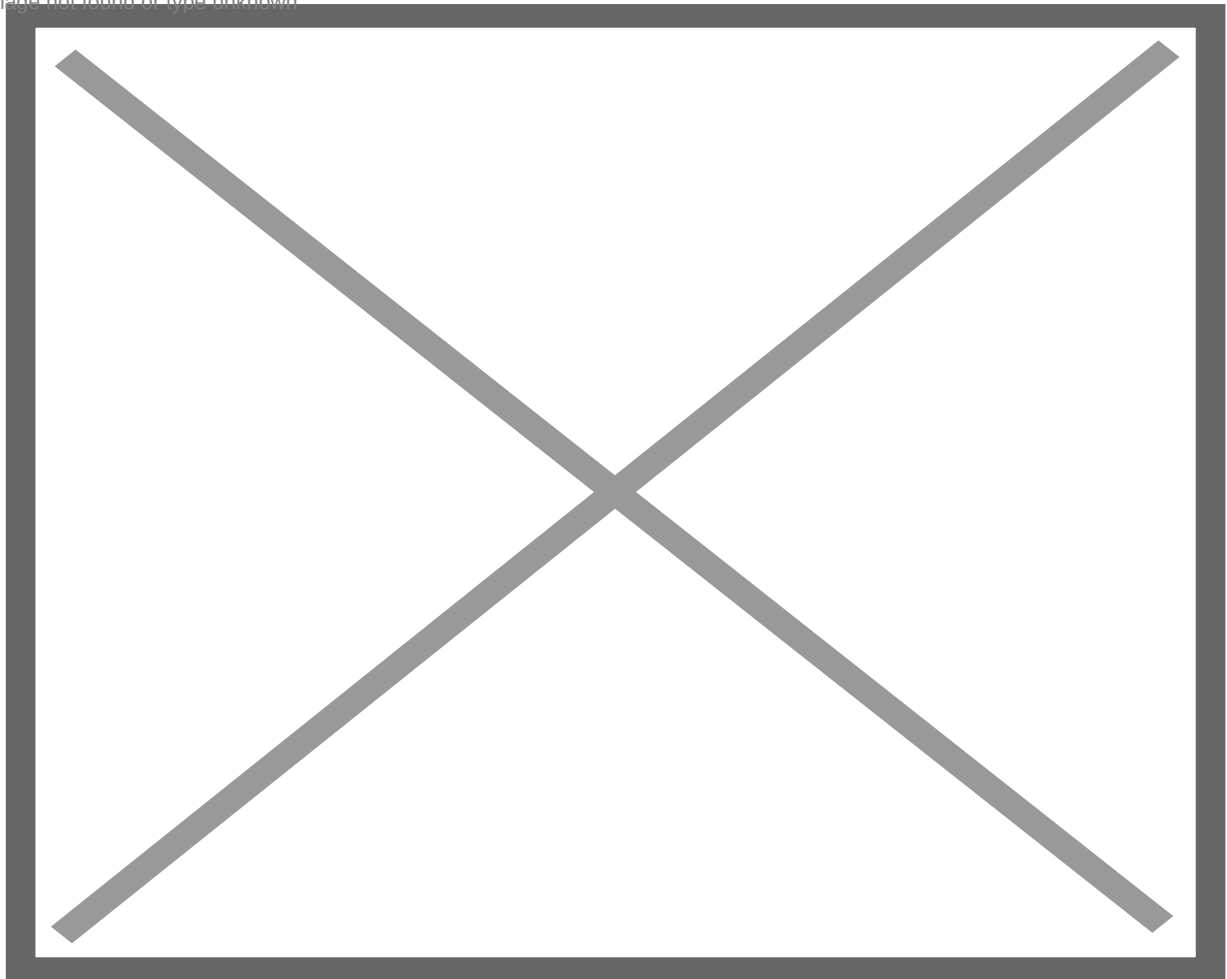
Gunshot Scare at Festival Village Turns Out to Be Fallen Table

Quick Action by Off-Duty Officer Recovers Pellet Gun Amid Festival Confusion

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Crowds scattered, rushing for anywhere deemed safe following a gun scare at the MokoVille Festival Village during the early-morning hours of Jan. 5, 2023. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM

ST. CROIX — In the early hours of Friday, January 5, the festive atmosphere at the Crucian Festival Village was briefly interrupted by a scare that sent attendees into a panic.

According to the VIPD, around 12:50 a.m., a loud noise that was initially thought to be a gunshot caused a large crowd to quickly disperse. Upon further investigation by the responding police

officers, it was determined that the alarming sound was actually caused by a table falling onto the stage.

As festival-goers hurriedly moved away from the source of the noise, several individuals sustained injuries. Medical personnel were on hand to provide immediate care, according to police, and no major injuries were reported.

In the midst of the chaos, an off-duty Police Officer noticed a person pulling out what seemed to be a firearm. The Officer promptly engaged with the suspect and was able to secure the object, which was later identified as a pellet gun. The incident has led to the identification of a person of interest, with an active investigation underway to clarify the circumstances surrounding the event.

The VIPD said it is taking the situation seriously and encourages the public to remain alert as the festival season continues. Police officers are appealing to anyone with information related to the incident to come forward and assist in the ongoing investigation. Confidential tips can be reported to the VIPD by dialing 911, contacting the CIB Tipline at (340)778-4950, or calling Crime Stoppers VI at 1(800)222-8477 (TIPS), or online [here](#).