

Apple Chill ends after violence

Officials nix annual street festival

FROM STAFF REPORTS

After a shooting that injured at least two after the annual Apple Chill festival, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted to nix the celebration.

At an April 24 meeting, less than 24 hours after the shooting, the town council disbanded the fair with a vote supported throughout the community.

"There's been no outcry," said Bill Thorpe, a council member, in an interview in April.

"There's a whole list of things that don't need to be going back to a committee."

Thorpe added that canceling Apple Chill fell emphatically into the "no study" category.

The festival, which took place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. April 23, was a decades-long staple in Chapel Hill, pegged as a family-friendly event filled with homemade vases, jazz music and a whole lot of sugar.

Vendors lined the streets as bikers gathered to attend a motorcycle show that had been part of the event since 2003.

The shootings took place during the unofficial event that followed Apple Chill — "After Chill."

After Chill attracted gangs to

downtown's west end and saw varying degrees of violence in the last several years.

Two people were shot in front of TJ's Campus Tobacco and Beverage and Caribou Coffee Shop on West Franklin Street, and another was found wounded at Elliott Road and East Franklin Street.

In front of Caribou, a bullet grazed the head of one victim, who also received a bullet to the chest. The other was shot in the back. Neither injury was life-threatening.

The shooting, which took place about 8:30 p.m., involved an estimated five shots from an unknown number of shooters, police Chief Gregg Jarvies said in April.

After the Caribou shooting, about 12 individuals stayed at the crime scene to be interviewed. The incident still is under investigation.

Additional gunfire was reported several blocks east, at Battle Lane and Franklin Street, about 45 minutes later.

Officer Mitch McKinney of the Chapel Hill Police Department said in April that local gangs are becoming increasingly active and violent, and that they like high-profile events such as After Chill. "Gangs like publicity. That's part of gang culture."



Four-year-old Freja Murphy indulges in homemade ice cream at Apple Chill on April 23. Due to a shooting, Chapel Hill voted to end the celebration.

Jane Cousins of the Chapel Hill police said in April that she thought the shootings were gang-related.

McKinney said both victims were members of the Nine Trey Bloods, a Durham group.

Both the University and local communities have said they support the cancellation of the event.

"We're very supportive of the Town Council's decision to stop Apple Chill," said Margaret Jablonski, vice chancellor for student affairs, after the decision was made.

Mayor Kevin Foy said in April that he heard residents were happy with the decision as well.

"I have heard from many Chapel Hill residents, and from people around the state and nation, since last Sunday's Apple Chill," Foy said.

"Nearly everyone was in favor of an immediate end to the festival, an action that the town council took on Monday night."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Local schools see shooting, standoff

FROM STAFF REPORTS

School violence is on the rise in North Carolina, according to a report on school crime and violence from N.C. schools.

Orange County saw its fair share of school crime with two incidents of school violence this year.

Both a hostage situation at Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School's East Chapel Hill High School in April and a shooting at Orange County Schools' Orange High School in August made waves in the community but also proved the tenacity of local and school officials.

High school hostage

Student William Barrett Foster held hostage a student and teacher on April 24 at East Chapel Hill High.

Foster, 17, held sophomore Chelsea Slegal and social studies teacher Lisa Kukla in Kukla's classroom for about an hour at 5 p.m. at the school at 500 Weaver Dairy Road.

Police reports state that Foster entered East after school hours in possession of a shotgun, air rifle and hunting knife.

On June 19 Foster was charged with two felony counts of second-

degree kidnapping; one felony count of discharging a weapon on school grounds; one felony count of weapons possession on school grounds; and two misdemeanor counts of assault by pointing a gun.

Foster is being held at Dorothea Dix hospital under the recommendations of the court.

Parking lot pandemonium

A former Orange High student who drove to the school and opened fire Aug. 30 was arrested on charges of killing his father earlier that day.

After being taken into custody, Alvaro Rafael Castillo, 19, of 230 Lipps Lane in Orange County, told authorities he'd killed his father, Rafael Huevo Castillo.

Members of the emergency response team found one dead body, whose injuries appeared to have been inflicted by firearm, inside the home on Lipps Lane, a police press release states.

Anne D'Annunzio, spokeswoman for county schools, said Castillo drove a van through the guard house of the student parking lot at about 1 p.m. before firing.

A female student's shoulder was grazed with a bullet and a male student was injured by broken glass. Neither of their injuries were serious, D'Annunzio said.

Castillo, who had two rifles in his possession, continued firing as school resource officers approached him, the release states.

Castillo is set to appear in court Jan. 23, facing several felony charges — two counts of carrying a gun on school property, one count of assault with a deadly weapon with the intent to kill, one count of assault with a deadly weapon, three counts of possession of weapons of mass destruction and one count of first-degree murder.

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