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CAROLINA BEACH POLICE ARREST TENNESSEE MAN IN 12-YEAR-OLD MURDER CASE

CAROLINA BEACH, NC---A man from Johnson City, Tennessee was arrested November 4, 2005 on murder charges resulting from a September 1993 incident at the now-defunct *Long Branch Saloon*.

According to police reports, William Joseph Ryan IV, 40, became involved in an argument on September 23, 1993 with Gerald Colvin, 43, of Carolina Beach while they were both patrons in the Boardwalk bar. The reports indicate Mr. Ryan swung a barstool striking Mr. Colvin in the head who died as a result of his injuries during the morning hours of September 24, 1993.

Police said the investigation has been at a standstill for various reasons including Mr. Ryan leaving the state of NC and witnesses that could not be located.

In March 2005, new leads were developed by Carolina Beach detectives. This resulted in locating witnesses, along with Mr. Ryan and the original warrant. In October 2005, evidence against Mr. Ryan was presented to the Fifth Judicial District Grand Jury and he was indicted on first degree murder charges. He was arrested in Johnson City, Tennessee on the Carolina Beach warrants and transported by CBPD detectives on November 4, 2005.

Mr. Ryan is currently in the New Hanover County Jail waiting for a bond hearing in New Hanover District Court on November 7, 2005.

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