

Best Western Hotel Cleared to Reopen

Written by Steve Frank
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The limited certificate of occupancy has been issued for operators of the Boone Best Western hotel to resume business. The Boone Building inspector said that the limited certificate was issued just after noon today, the only restriction on the business that the pool will not be operated. The pool heater was identified as the mechanism that filled an area of the East King Street Hotel that killed 11-year-old Jeffrey Williams last month and Daryl and Shirley Jenkins in April. There's been a lot of activity at the East King Street Hotel, including the addition of a cover on an exhaust vent for the pool heater that is blamed for all three deaths in room 225. The parking lot has been repaved and relined. Room 225, where has been cordoned off, with the room number in the hallway removed. Boone planning director Bill Bailey said the but the pool heater has been disconnected and the pool room will be off-limits, but town inspectors did not find any carbon monoxide detectors in the hotel—they are still not required by law. Still not addressed is the hotel's response to a demand from Planning and Inspection to produce permits that allowed the installation of another pool heater, as the one found there was not the original unit and required a different exhaust system.