

State Examiners Enter Death Probe

Written by Steve Frank
Monday, 10 June 2013 11:52

The Best Western Plus Blue Ridge Plaza remains closed today as Boone Police and Fire investigators continue their investigation, trying to determine the cause of death of an 11-year old and injury to his mother discovered Saturday. Boone Police have the area cordoned off with cones and police tape, and with an active patrol at the facility, awaiting the North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors.

The afternoon press release says examiners from that department will be in Boone tomorrow to aid in the investigation. The release says that Boone Police Investigators have renewed their request for the toxicology and autopsy results from the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concerning the April 16, 2013, deaths that occurred in the same room, but as of this morning, those reports remain unavailable. 73-year old Daryl Jenkins and his wife Shirley, 72, were found April 16th in the same room, dead of what appeared to be natural causes. That conclusion is now being reexamined in the wake of the incident Saturday.

Family of the Jenkins told the Charlotte Observer that the couple were in good health and were starting a cross country trip back to their Longview Washington home. The family told the Charlotte paper they implored the Best Western not to rent the room until the family received the toxicology report that Boone investigators are now seeking. Boone Police late yesterday identified the two as 11-year old Jeffrey Lee Williams—the boy who died—and his mother, 49-year old Jeannie Williams, who is still hospitalized. Family sad that the mother seemed to be responding and regaining consciousness.

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Jenkins Photo: WSOC-TV