

Best Western Probe: January Decision

Written by Steve Frank

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The Chief Prosecutor of the 24th District Attorney's Office says it will be at least a month before a decision is made about criminal charges in the three deaths from the Best Western Hotel in Boone earlier this year. Britt Springer issued a press release Monday afternoon saying that she, DA Jerry Wilson and investigators of Boone Police met last week, December 5th, going over their extensive, detailed investigation, a process she said would continue in a careful review for at least several weeks. Springer said she hoped to have a decision by mid January as to whether charges would be filed. A Washington State couple were found dead in April, and an 11-year old Rock Hill SC boy died in June—all in room 225 at the East King Street hotel, the three killed by carbon monoxide leaking into the room from a pool heater just below the room. Investigators found that the heater had been replaced—but not issued a permit by the town—and that the exhaust system from the newly-installed heater did not match the exhaust system in place. State inspectors turned over their findings a month or so before the Boone Police, and all that evidence is being weighed by the DA's Office.