

Breaking News Headline

Seattle Daily Times

February 23rd, 2010

Mr. John Wait of Seattle, WA, was on his way home from work as a corporate attorney at Boggs, Plubark, and Epstein Law Firm on a cold and rainy Thursday afternoon at 5:26pm. He had just finished negotiating an important case involving the overseas Mayweather Co., Inc, LLPC. He had won the case and several millions of dollars were trading hands due primarily to his savvy negotiation skills and impeccable understanding of international shipping law.

Suddenly Mr. Wait's car swerved abruptly off the road, plunged down an embankment, and crashed front-first in between two huge boulders. Onlookers in two separate cars immediately pulled over and rushed to the edge of the precipice. Scrambling down, one of the onlookers found Mr. Wait covered in blood and unresponsive. The onlooker, Mr. Benjamin March, after bending over the body crumbled inside the car for about a minute yelled back up to the gathering crowd; "he has no pulse and is dead!

Mr. Wait had a wife and three children and his estate was worth an estimated 23.2 million dollars, following his latest court victory.

Detectives with the Seattle Police Department reported today that Mr. Wait's neighbors, John and Maggie Purell, stated that they had seen Mr. Wait's wife Kathleen arguing with him on the lawn of their Seattle home that morning after a party the night before in celebration of Mr. Wait's courtroom victory.

For Physical Science students:

Fact 1; small amounts of elemental potassium, not found purely in nature are found by detectives just under the wiper blade water reservoir and on the ground under the engine.

Fact 2; A complete forensic investigation of the Wait home revealed two party balloons filled with chlorine gas instead of helium. In an interview with Mr. Wait's supposed son Ben (see "Life Science" below) it was revealed that he is an environmental chemist with the Oregon-based CleanAirNow research firm who worked on Ozone Layer depletion by industrial refrigerants and consumer spray can additives such as chlorofluorocarbons.

Question 1; What are the properties of the Alkali metals in general and potassium in particular and might this element be related to Mr. Wait's death? You must defend your answer with background chemistry knowledge and scientific method/critical thinking analysis.

Question 2; What are the properties of halogen group elements in general and chlorofluorocarbons specifically and how might this relate to Mr. Wait's death? You must defend your answer with background chemistry knowledge and scientific method/critical thinking analysis.

For Life Science students:

Fact 1; Mr. Wait was known to have a possible son, Ben, who lived in another family from an early age and who had publicly stated that he critically disagreed with Mr. Wait's courtroom tactics. Two weeks ago Ben had mysteriously been seen in Seattle, where he hadn't lived before. Ben has attached earlobes. Both Mr. Wait and his wife are heterozygous for Free earlobes.

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Question 1; Could Ben possibly be the prodigal son of Mr. Wait? You must defend your answer with background genetics knowledge and scientific method/critical thinking analysis.

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