



Unity Post

February 27, 2021

Loss of Power Kills a Kid

The Texas power providers ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas) and Entergy Corporation were hit with a \$100 million lawsuit made by the family of 11 year old, Cristian Pavon, who passed away on February 16th due to what the family suspects as hypothermia from the loss of electricity and heat in their mobile home for a week.

The mother of Cristian Pavon, filed the wrongful death lawsuit in Jefferson County District Court, stating that the utility providers “put profits over the welfare of people” by dismissing the advice to winterize its power grid which underwent a failure last week, leaving over 4 million clients without heat or/and electricity for days as temperatures in some cities of Texas drop drastically to single digits.

“Despite having knowledge of the dire weather forecast for at least a week in advance, and the knowledge that the system was not prepared for more than a decade, ERCOT and Entergy failed to take any preemptory action that could have averted the crisis and were wholly unprepared to deal with the crisis at hand,” the lawsuit states.

Cristian died last Tuesday in his home in the Houston suburbs of Conroe, sharing a bed with his 3 year old brother. Pavon’s mother, Maria Elisa Pineda Guzman, said the family had all been sleeping in one room to keep warm. “He fell asleep with a shirt, a sweater, two pairs of pants, socks on,” Pavon's aunt, Jaliza Yera said.

“This is a young man who died for no reason other than corporate decisions,” the Pineda family attorney Tony Buzbee said. “There are a lot of decisions that were made a long time ago that led to the death of this young man. That is unacceptable.”

Over 30 people have died in Texas in the past week due to the severe weather, including many from carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of people using cars or generators to stay warm. Buzbee said he now represents the seven families who lost loved ones because of the weather.

“Cristian’s lawsuit is the first and his lawsuit should be the first,” Buzbee said. “This kid is going to change Texas and God bless him for that.”

Although the family believes Cristian died of hypothermia, the results of the autopsy are still pending, according to the Conroe Police Department.

Luana T.

3/1/2021

Story #2

Chapter One: Sarah the Gossip Queen, AKA My Loveable Bestie

Next thing I knew, 67 pounds of fur and energy is on top of me. “Arc! Get off! You’re so heavy!”, was all I could manage, as my voice was muffled from underneath him. “OH MY GOSH! I gotta insta this right now! This is gonna be fire~!”, Sarah sang, dancing with her phone in hand. “Sarah, don’t yo-”, I started, but she interrupted me. “Ay! #SaveTiff #Hilarious #LOL #PoorTiff ! This is sick! I should record a video, too!” I managed to push Arcanum off of me, and grabbed my phone. Sure enough, a notification popped up with Sarah’s new post.

Check out part one in our last newsletter at unitypost.weebly.com

Lina K.

3/7/2021

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Riddlemaster

When I'm alive I am quiet, when dead I
crackle and crunch. What am I?

Dead leaves.

Fun Facts

- Heterochromia is more common in animals than in humans
- Tetrochromia is when you see more shades of color than normal people
- In Japan, instead of a green light, they have a blue light on the traffic lights.
- Mice can eat up to 20 times a day
- Dogs can be left-pawed or right-pawed

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The Effect of Gerrymandering

There are many ways to change the results of an election. You could start a campaign, volunteer at polls, even put signs in your yard. People have one vote each, no more, no less, and a citizen not being able to apply their vote, their opinion, to an election is not okay. Everyone's opinion should count. Sadly, many people have found ways to manipulate the results of an election, so that it turns out the way they want no matter what the public thinks. This is called gerrymandering, and even though it's a highly debated issue, people still do it.

Gerrymandering is when a political district map is redrawn, or reorganized to help a certain party in the election. In the past, maps have been redrawn to support white candidates and not represent ethnic minorities.

There are two ways to gerrymander. One way people manipulate the election is by doing what's called cracking. Cracking is when you redraw the map so that the opposing party's votes are spread out on the map, so each district has less of the opposing party's votes than the one they are rooting for. This makes their votes less powerful, even if they had more votes altogether. Another gerrymandering tactic is called packing. Packing is redrawing the map so that the opponents supporters are put in less areas. That way, the other party can have control of more areas. A map that has been packed will have long, twisting boundaries.

People gerrymander so that they can win in the coming election. Gerrymandering is mostly done by courts or legislatures that are in office to keep political dominance in their party. It isn't exactly illegal, but that doesn't mean it's fair.

One example of gerrymandering was in 1996. Texas used advanced software and data to redraw the district map based on race. Because Hispanic and African-American districts were created by race, it put them at a disadvantage. Luckily, the Supreme Court said it was a case of racial gerrymandering.

In conclusion, gerrymandering is, in my opinion, bad and is unfortunately, still happening. What do you think?