

Senior Spotlights

Kylee Thom
Editor

Cadence Brown

Our first senior is Cadence Brown. She is involved in 4H, student council, STAND, NHS, Key Club and choir. Her favorite part about these groups is running events and promoting school spirit along with community service. She enjoys making new friends in all the groups she is in. In her free time, she enjoys baking, hanging out with her brothers and friends, and watching Disney movies. Her biggest piece of advice to underclassmen is to "be nice to everyone and everyone will be nice to you."



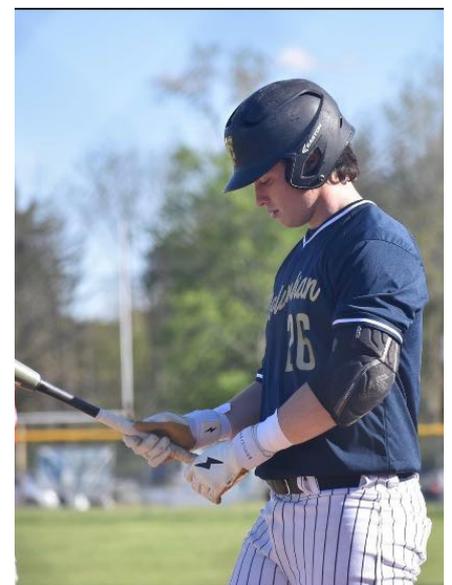
Ryan Brown

Our next senior is Ryan Brown. He is involved in marching band, pep band, and yearbook. His favorite part of these groups is being with all the others and helping each other out. "All of us in band playing together and helping each other is awesome," he said. In his free time, he likes to read (18 books this school year to be exact), play video games and go camping. His best pieces of advice for underclassmen are to "try everything the high school offers," "participate in school events," and that it is "okay to ask for help sometimes."



Jaden Myers

Our last senior is Jaden Myers. He is involved in baseball, basketball and NHS. His favorite part of the group is being around his close friends and making new ones. In his free time he enjoys working out, hanging out with family and hanging with friends. His biggest piece of advice to underclassmen is to focus on school more than anything. "Do your work and stick to what you want to do. Trust yourself," he said.



National "Adopt a Shelter Dog" Month

Kylee Thom

Editor

This month is "National Adopt a Shelter Dog" month. I had the opportunity to interview the animal technician at the Humane Society of Seneca County, Angie Leonard. She's been in the field for 16 years, and started at the University of Akron and ended at the University of Findlay.

Q. How complex is the adoption process?

A. "We have tried to make it simple while still making sure we match people with the right animals. Animals already owned must be up to date on vaccines and must have meet and greets if they have other pets. People must also have landlord confirmation, so the adoption process might take a minute."

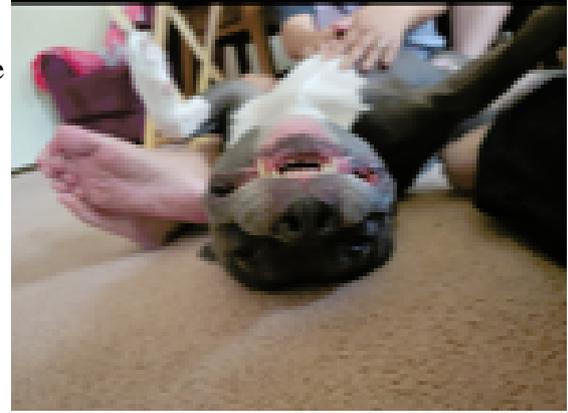
Q. What is the most common breed of dog and cat you get in the shelter?

A. "Lots of Pitbulls and a lot of purebred cats, generally called domestic short hair, domestic long hair, etc."

Q. How much does it cost to adopt?

A. For cats, 2-6 month is \$60, 7 months-7 years is \$40, and 8+ years is \$25. For dogs, 2-4 months is \$200, 5-10 months is \$150, 11 months to 7 years is \$75, and 8+ years is \$25. The older the animal, the less expensive they are, because the main goal is to give the animals a good home. In some cases, businesses or people sponsor a pet, to make the adoption fee for you free.

Stay up to date with the animals on the Humane Society of Seneca county facebook page to see animals being adopted, animals being sponsored and events to raise money for the shelter!



Pictured here is Kylee's crazy pitbull "Angus" from the animal shelter.

Indigenous People Day

Ky Harris

Writer

Indigenous Peoples Day is October 11th. Columbus Day started turning into Indigenous Peoples Day in 1992 in Berkley, California. This is exactly 500 years after Christopher Columbus first came to America on October 12th, 1492. Two years after Berkley instituted Indigenous Peoples Day, Santa Cruz, California also instituted it. In 2014, many other cities started recognizing the holiday. On October 8th, 2021, Joe

Biden became the first president to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day, as he signed a presidential proclamation that October 11th is a national holiday. Indigenous Peoples Day is a celebration of the

Indigenous people who passed or were a victim of Columbus. It is also to celebrate the culture of Indigenous people. There is also an International Day of the World's Indigenous People. This was put in place by the United Nations, and it takes place on August 9th. Here in Tiffin, Ohio, we are on the land of the Myaamia, Kaskaskia, and Peoria tribes.



How Columbian Celebrates "National Coming Out" Day

Kylee Thom
Editor

On October 11th, Columbian's TC Together support group celebrated National Coming Out Day with students and staff. They had a table set up in the morning and at lunch with stickers, candy, name tags, bracelets and much more to show support for the LGBTQ+ community worldwide and also those who attend Columbian. The table also included a large banner to sign a pledge or show support to the community by including a personal message. Many people stopped by the table and celebrated with the group. Happy Coming Out day!!



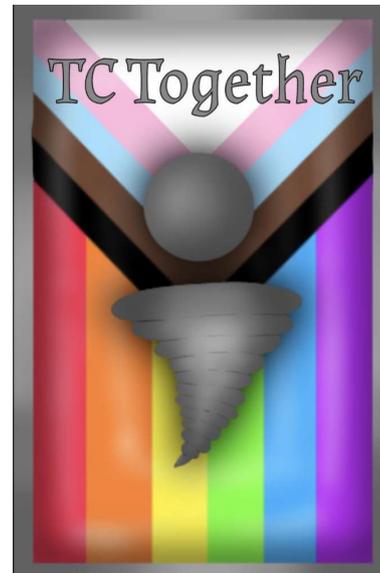
Pictured here are Madison McBride, Kylee Thom, Mrs. Miller and Ace at the table.

Album of the Month

Rylan Clarkson
Writer

We Sold Our Soul for Rock n Roll is possibly one of the greatest compilation albums of all time. It showcases all of the hits that the great Black Sabbath had released up to this point in time (1975). Now, readers may be wondering why I am listening to this album during Spooky Season. Well, let me explain.

On this album sits a collection of songs, most of which are very spooky. War Pigs, for example, has a haunting intro. It has a wailing guitar and a thumping bass, and includes the sound of air raid sirens. In most of the songs on the album, listeners can hear Ozzy Osbourne's haunting vocals. The album includes hits like "Paranoid" and "Iron Man." The songs can be very creepy if listeners pay attention to the lyrics. Playing the record on vinyl with the hiss and crackles definitely adds to the ambiance of the listening experience. The cassette tape can also give a similar experience.



Bullying Prevention

Madison McBride

Writer

Bullying is the act of putting someone else down repeatedly. Signs of being bullied can be shown in many ways, such as spreading rumors, making threats, or physically or verbally attacking someone. Unfortunately, bullying is a massive problem worldwide, and the platforms on which bullying can occur have only been growing. It can happen in school, at work, or even online. Part of Bullying Prevention Month is acknowledging that bullying is a real problem in society and it also encourages people to collaborate and find new ways to address bullying.

Sadly, bullying will never vanish off the face of the Earth with a couple of wrist slaps. This is and will continue to be a significant problem within society for the years to come. We can promote safe and respectful classrooms at school, have a set of policies in place, and seek swift punishments for those who violate said policies. In the house environment, families can discuss appropriate behaviors when interacting with other people both in school and online.

For those who have been bullied, there are often adverse outcomes, including depression and anxiety, loneliness, changes in eating and sleeping patterns, decreased academic achievements, and in the worst cases, suicide. This is a subject that needs to be talked about. If you have been bullied, those around you can not help unless you tell someone. This person can be a friend, teacher, or any other trusted adult. Bullying is never going to poof out of existence, but we can put measures in place to help those around us. If you see someone being bullied at school, do the right thing and say something- to a teacher, to the bully, to anyone who can help put an end to it. We can all collectively agree that none of us want to be bullied, so why let it happen to others?

"Halloween"

by Michael Robinson
Illustrator



Ohio Witch Trials

Alison Kramer

Writer



Occurring in colonial Massachusetts, the Salem Witch Trials were a series of prosecutions of people accused of witchcraft. Most people have heard of these trials because of their impact on the US court system as well as the many innocent lives lost.

However, a majority of people don't know that similar events happened in Ohio.

One such situation occurred in 1805. The small village of Bethel in Clermont County experienced a witch trial of its own in this time. A family known as the Hildebrands lived in Bethel with their two daughters. At some point, their daughters began to act strangely, claiming that they were possessed by evil spirits. They would scream and fear objects and beings that only they could see, and despite the efforts by their parents to end this unusual behavior, it continued. They tried many ways to end the witchcraft, including attempting to trap the beings. That is, until the entity supposedly took form as a neighbor. This neighbor was an elderly woman by the name of Nancy Evans. Evans denied that she ever appeared to the girls, and denied that she practiced witchcraft. However, the Hildebrands believed it would be best for their daughters' souls to prove or disprove

Evans' affiliation to witchcraft.

A common method of testing alignment with witchcraft, Nancy Evans was put on a scale with a Bible. The people believed that if Evans weighed less than the Bible, she was a witch because she could avoid the natural laws of weight. Everyone was full of dread and fear as she was put on the scale, but not entirely surprised when the results came back. Nancy Evans weighed more than the Bible. After this, she was cleared of her witch status. Both families ended up moving away from the Bethel area: Evans to Brown County and the Hildebrands to an unknown location. This notable event brought forth a new intelligence on the Village, as they began to take more note of the citizens and neighbors among them. This sequence of events closely mirrors what happened in Salem, as many people began to accuse their neighbors in order to procure their land.

Haunted Ohio

Julia Heil and Weston Runion

Writers



There are countless "haunted" locations scattered throughout Ohio, but one that is the most well known is the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio. Not only is this 135 year old prison said to be haunted, it is also the setting of the world famous movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*. Along with the rich

historical value of the building comes speculation about supernatural occurrences throughout the reformatory. Some former inmates have claimed that they had ghosts pulling at their sheets as if they were tucking them in. Additionally, visitors on ghost tours have attested to being pushed on flights of stairs by ghosts, and some say that they even hear eerie sounds that some believe are supernatural beings attempting to communicate. Whether these stories are true or false is up to the reader to decide! In honor of this strangely warm October, the next location in the "Haunted Ohio" discussion is the Moonville Tunnel.

A small village called McArthur is home to the Moonville Tunnel, an old railway leading to an abandoned coal-mining town. It's said that people who have died on its railways haunt this area, and if visitors are lucky, they can see some of them. Frank Lawhead died in a head-on collision with another train, and it is said that if visitors take a picture there, they may be able to see his vague outline in the photo. Visitors may also see train lights illuminating the walls while they wander inside the tunnel. Visitors can also trek the nearby trails and see the scenery of the surrounding area. This is just one of the places ghost enthusiasts can visit, as there are many other terrifying places in haunted Ohio.

A Message from Mrs. Tuite

Mrs. Tuite is the Director of Educational Programs for TCS; the state mandated liaison for Homeless, Foster, and Adjudicated Youth; the Director of Lincoln Pre-Kindergarten; a Title IX Coordinator; she works with all Federal and State Programming and maintains all grant dollars by planning, budgeting and expending; she is the immediate past President of Kiwanis; and has done tremendous work with the Pay It Forward store to clothe our students in need. She even helps house and feed students in need.

With Halloween within just a few days, there are suggestions for costumes and a great opportunity to transform who you are for the day. This time of year reminds me that a palette of makeup and some second-hand clothing items can allow me to put aside my true identity and dress as I want. A ghost! A dancer! A vampire! The sky is truly the limit. And yet, when the time ticks away and the party is over, we have to put the camouflage away and return to who we are.

To that I ask, who are you? Are you the super brain who gets the top grade and understands what is being taught? Or maybe you are the athletic type. The sports-loving student who loves to compete and work with others to win. You could be the peacemaker who brings others together, the quiet one, the class comedian- the list goes on and on.

But that is just surface. That is the identity that we let others see.

Who are you really? What drives you and how you are with other people? When others aren't watching you, who are you?

I guess that with my recent days and weeks at Columbian, I hear identifiers that speak to gender, race, and identity. But what I don't usually hear is identifiers of the heart. What does that mean? He runs cross, she is the editor, they are polyamorous. What about "she is kind, he is kind, they are kind"?

I want to articulate this and wish I could reach through this writing and let you hear my voice and my passion.

What you offer this world is how you are identified. And if you can be anything in this world, why not be kind? Just be kind.

I challenge you that while we are moving towards dressing up, that when you put aside your accessories, remember to put on kindness and wear it like it's the shiniest possession you own.

Kindness is the new cool.

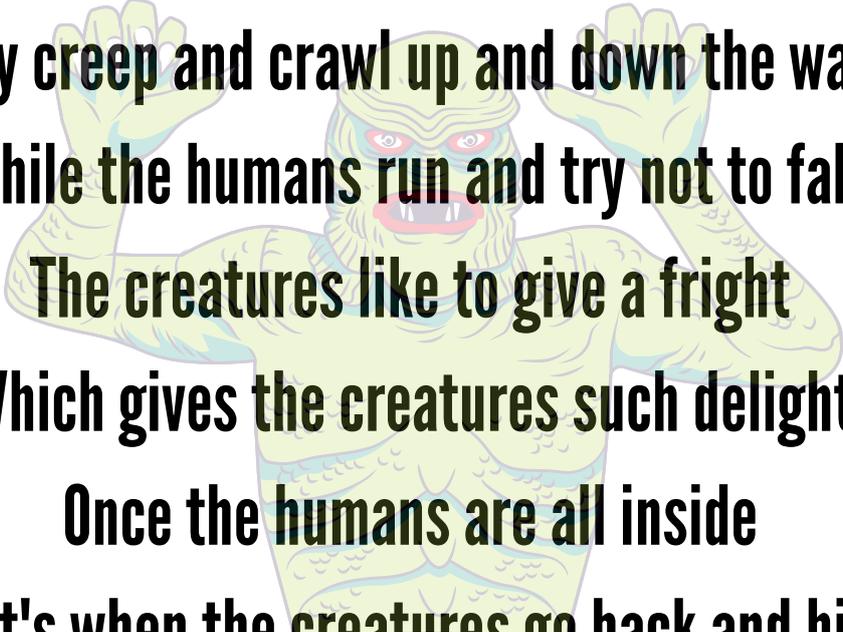
Carpe Diem!

Halloween Short Story Contest Winner

Creatures

By Angel Smith

In the day humans like to play
But at night creatures come to find their prey
They creep and crawl up and down the walls
While the humans run and try not to fall
The creatures like to give a fright
Which gives the creatures such delight
Once the humans are all inside
That's when the creatures go back and hide
The sun will rise and bring the day
And the humans will come back out and play



The Mercury Man

Casey Vasko

Writer

Alvin's face twisted into a sly grin as he watched the red from his hands spiral down into the sink, slightly tinting the basin a dull crimson. He let the rushing water do the work for him, not bothering to scrub his hands or move them at all, really. He didn't even use soap. Why would he? Acrylic paint was always easily washed off of his hands from the force of the cold water.

After the paint was sufficiently removed from his hands, he dried them off with a bright orange towel with a repeating design of a vampire bat biting the neck of a black silhouette of a human. He loved the design of that towel. He did not love the red stains that never seemed to come out of the towel, no matter how hard he scrubbed.

He briefly decided to wait until the sun went down to put up his Halloween decorations. He didn't want the neighborhood children to see until tomorrow. Yes, if they saw it today it would ruin the surprise. He'd been carefully planning this surprise since June, and he couldn't have it ruined by some measly nosy children!

Alvin could prepare the candy. That would surely take a while, efficiently giving him something to do until the sun went down. It was only three o'clock, after all.

He'd bought the candy yesterday. Five large variety bags of chocolate and other assorted candies. The time-consuming part would be the unwrapping and rewrapping of the candy. Luckily, he'd already set out his supplies so that was a start. He opened the bags and got to work.

On either side of him sat two bowls. One was striped purple and orange. The other had the same design as his orange towel, only green and with a distinct lack of red stains. He sorted the candy that he decided to leave untouched in the purple and orange bowl. He slipped on three thick face masks and a pair of work gloves before moving on to his next task. He couldn't poison himself, now could he?

Carefully, he unwrapped each individual piece of candy, before coating the wrapper with an only slightly toxic layer of mercury. After he was satisfied with the amount of mercury in the wrapper, he resealed the candy, making sure that the wrapping looked brand new and completely untouched. This of course was a painstakingly long, but necessary process. It was part of the surprise, after all. The "special" candies went into the green bowl, one by one until the bowl was full. Alvin had a plan. He would give these candies to the rude and greedy children.

Or the ones who he just didn't like.

A sharp meow snapped him out of his thoughts. He suddenly became aware of the lack of light in the room.

He swiveled his head to check the time. It read 8:07 PM. Almost time to set up the final part of the surprise. His cat, Hagley, aggressively bumped his arm. Alvin began to slightly freak out as some of the mercury was still out. Not enough to kill Hagley, no, but enough to make her sick. He would never want to hurt his beloved cat like that.

"I thought I locked you in the bedroom!" Alvin worriedly exclaimed.

All he received in response was an annoyed meow. He hurriedly contained the mercury before stripping off his protective gloves and gently picking Hagley up. He rushed her into the clean air of the kitchen. She scratched at the cabinets that contained her food, glancing between the cabinet and her food bowl.

"I know, I know. Move out of the way so I can get it for you," Alvin grumbled.

Hagley innocently stared up at Alvin before pouncing on the food bag as soon it was removed from the cabinet.

"Hey!" Alvin yelped.

He snatched the bag from Hagley's claws and dumped a generous amount into the food bowl. Hagley sprinted to the food and started to eat like she hadn't eaten in days when in reality it had only been a few hours since she'd last been fed. He swiftly moved back into the living room, making sure to double-check that the door between the kitchen and the living room was locked. Alvin opened up all the windows and turned on all the fans. That should do it.

Time for the final surprise. He had bought a ton of cheap Halloween decorations last year. He'd finally get to use them. Walking into the garage, he quickly found what he was looking for. He hoisted the three large tubs of decorations onto a cart before moving outside. He looked around to check for any nearby children. The coast was clear.

Perfect.

It had taken Alvin around two hours for the setup, but to him? It was all worth it.

All the decorations set up had transformed his house into looking like a laboratory with large bubbling test tubes and humongous yellow signs that read, "WARNING: TOXIC MATERIALS PRESENT". Alvin chuckled at the sign. No one would take it seriously. It was like his own little inside joke. Oh, how he loved the dramatic irony of the decor.

Now, all he had to do was wait until trick or treat the next day. Easy. He could totally occupy himself until then.

Totally.

He got bored quickly. Hagley was in an "I hate you and want nothing to do with you" mood so Alvin had nothing to do but sit there and stare up at his ceiling as he tried to fall asleep.

Alvin zoned out and before he knew it, light was filtering through his thin, stringy curtains, waking him up. He didn't even realize that he had been asleep.

He bounced out of bed to get ready for the day. This was going to be a great day, he could feel it! Hagley howled at him for more food, as she had finished up what was given to her yesterday hours ago.

Since he was in such a good mood, he decided to be nice and give her some tuna. Halloween was his favorite holiday after all. He should celebrate it with treats for himself and Hagley. It's only logical.

The day passed by quickly as Alvin completed menial tasks and small chores to keep him occupied until it was time for trick-or-treat. He shook with excitement at the thought of passing out the candies. It pleased him greatly as he would get to play God for one night, deciding who would be punished and poisoned, or rewarded and treated.

"This is Halloween" began to blare throughout his home, the alarm that he had set for getting ready going off at last. At the glorious sound, he bolted up the stairs and into his bedroom to change into his costume. It was perfectly fitting for the event. He would be dressed as a mad scientist. That's who he already was, really. Now he looks the part.

Tromping back down the stairs, he swiftly swiped the two bowls as he practically skipped outside. In the distance, he could see the children dressed in colorful costumes, their screams of delight piercing his ears. He winced. How could anyone willingly want those *creatures* around? Maybe he'll give the "special" candy to the loud little gremlins too. As he sat down, a young child dressed in a cheap Iron Man costume waddled up to the table that Alvin had set up for the candy.

"Trick or treat!" the Iron Kid squealed. Alvin internally groaned. This was how it was going to be all night, wasn't it? However, the child wasn't rude. Just annoying. Alvin reluctantly decided to give him the normal candy.

"Thank you sir! I like your costume and your house!" The child beamed at him before running off to what Alvin presumed was his mother. Alvin felt the corner of his mouth twitch up into a light smile, happiness bubbling up in his chest. Okay, so maybe not *all* of the children were gremlins.

However, his small bubble of happiness ended abruptly when the next child bounded up to his house. Based on the way the child was screeching and bossing his mother around, Alvin knew that this child would be receiving the most mercury-filled candy that he could find.

"Treat!" the annoying child demanded.

Alvin frowned, "That's not what you're supposed to say."

"Who cares? Give me candy!"

Alvin was sure that the Devil himself resided within this boy. How ironic that the boy was dressed as a Devil too. How fitting.

"Sure thing, kiddo!" Alvin internally grimaced at his choice of words. He plucked a mercury infested candy from the green bowl before smiling as cheesily as he could before handing the brat the candy.

The devilish fiend snatched the candy from Alvin's hand greedily before scurrying off to his mother who looked thoroughly embarrassed at her son's actions. She flashed an apologetic smile at Alvin. Alvin ignored her.

Throughout the night, it went more or less the same. Bratty and greedy children receiving the "special" candies and the sweet and polite children receiving the regular candies.

Once the night was over and all the candy was handed out, Alvin headed back inside, deciding to leave the decorations up for a few more days. As he laid in bed, attempting to fall asleep, sirens blared down the street, jolting him out of his sleepy state. He grinned before turning over and relaxing into his bed, glad that his job was done.

The next morning, he skipped down the stairs to check the newspaper. The headline was as he expected.

The title page read, "THE MERCURY MAN STRIKES AGAIN". According to the paper, over fifty children were admitted to the hospital last night due to mercury poisoning. None of them died, but only suffered severe symptoms that warranted a hospital visit.

A large smile spread across Alvin's face.

His work was done.

Our New Writers

Julia Heil *Writer*

Julia Heil is a freshman at Columbian. This is her first year writing for the newspaper, and she is a member of drumline in the marching band, student council, and quiz bowl. In her free time, she likes to paint her favorite album covers, write music, and talk to friends (usually about music). One of her favorite things to do outside of school is go see concerts around the state.

Ky Harris *Writer*

Ky Harris is a freshman at TCS. This is their first year writing for the Tiffinian. In their free time, they enjoy listening to music, reading, and writing poems and short stories. Their absolute favorite thing to do is hang out with their partner, and best friend, Brendan Underwood. Ky also has a dog named Junior, but they call him Stinky. Ky also wants to be a Historian and an activist for LGBTQ+ rights.

Brendan Underwood *Writer*

Brendan is one of our many here freshmen at Colombian. He enjoys playing guitar, street art, and skateboarding. You can often find him skating around town and hanging out at the local skate shop.

Casey Vasko *Writer*

Casey Vasko is a freshman at Columbian and this is her first year of writing for the Tiffinian. She is involved in cheerleading, Quiz Bowl, Student Council, dance, theatre, and the marching band. In her free time, she enjoys anything Marvel-related, binge-watching Criminal Minds, writing, and procrastinating.