

Terra Nova Times

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2020 Presidential election results

By Kyle Gossage
Times staff writer

Joseph R. Biden has been elected as the next president of the United States in the 2020 election. Although all the electoral votes are not in yet, Biden has accumulated a total of 290 safe electoral votes. A candidate only needs 270 to win, so Biden has more than enough votes, not even counting Georgia, where a winner has not been declared, although Biden is in the lead.

The 2020 presidential election has been the longest and most drawn out presidential election since the contested election of 2000, not only because of mail-in ballots, but also due to President Trump's attempts to discredit the results. President Trump has filed numerous lawsuits in states that didn't go his way, including Nevada, Georgia, and Michigan, claiming widespread voter fraud. It is worth noting that he has failed in almost every lawsuit, and the ones he has won had no impact on the vote count.

The Supreme Court has ruled against Trump in all instances of these lawsuits. President Trump has been very active in his campaign to discredit the election by questioning the le-



Jenna Smith / Terra Nova Times Class of 2009

Celebrants outside of the White House after Biden announced as the next president.

gitimacy of mail-in ballots, despite the fact that he himself votes absentee. Trump said, "This will create the great-

est rigged election in history." Additionally, there were recent attempts to discredit the election by Postmaster General

Louis DeJoy, who openly defied a federal court order to search USPS locations for 300,000 undelivered ballots. Prior to the

election, DeJoy also announced that they would be going through difficult changes, slowing down the mail delivery system.

Due to our heavily divided nation, this election has caused many businesses in populated areas to board up the first several floors of their buildings in preparation of riots, although there was no clear source of their concern. After Biden was announced as president-elect, spontaneous celebrations broke out in cities across the nation.

A president is not elected through popular vote as one might assume, but rather, there is an electoral college formed out of 538 total votes divided among each state. The number per state varies, with California holding the most at 55, but all states hold at least three electoral college votes. The number of electoral votes each state receives is based on the number of members in Congress for each state. Since this system is not completely aligned with the population, it makes some electoral votes "count more" than others. Each state is a winner-takes-all electoral votes, except Maine and Nebraska who divide their votes based on the popular vote. The electors of the electoral college officially cast their votes on Dec. 14.

San Mateo County moves into orange tier

By Samantha Guerrero
Times staff writer

California announced Tuesday, Oct. 27, that San Mateo County had reached Tier 3 of its four-tiered system, allowing the easing of certain COVID limitations on businesses after the spread of COVID was officially announced as moderate in the county. The state of California uses a color-coded plan divided into four tiers — widespread (purple), substantial (red) moderate (orange), and minimal (yellow). Restrictions vary depending on the county's tier. What does the orange tier exactly mean for businesses and residents of San Mateo County?

According to County of San Mateo's Joint Information Center, "The county met the orange Tier 3 status with a test positivity rate of 1.6 percent per 100,000 population, an adjusted case rate of 3.0 percent per 100,000 population and a health equity test positivity rate of 3.7 percent per 100,000 population."

These adjusted cases now allow indoor family entertainment, outdoor bars and breweries not serving food, and businesses and activities with capacity limitations. Other businesses, restaurants, movie theaters, and places of worship



Robert Ace Gonzales

Nail salons like these are now able allow more people in at once.

are allowed to increase indoor capacities to up to 50% from 25%. Gyms and indoor pools may expand operations to 25% capacity, but hot tubs, saunas and steam rooms must remain closed. All facilities must continue to follow state health guidelines specific to that com-

pany and adhere to local health orders.

Locally, Pacifica's High Tide Cafe & Crêperie has now added to their indoor occupancy. Will, an employee, said, "San Mateo County has added up to 50% occupancy inside. However, there still is six feet social distancing, face masks,

and the previous COVID restrictions."

San Mateo County Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow said in a press release, "We ask everyone to continue to work to limit the exposure of themselves and their families to COVID-19... We can't stress enough: wear your face covering, wash your hands, avoid close-contact with anyone not in your household. We have too much riding on our progress to go backwards now. Our comeback depends on all of us."

San Mateo County recently announced the ability to test up to 7,500 people each week at no-cost, and testing has expanded in Daly City, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Jefferson Union High School Board to expand testing for our community. Local health officials have cautioned residents to continue social distancing and following all COVID restrictions.

"This is a total team effort, and by team I mean everyone who lives and works and loves San Mateo County," said County Manager Mike Callagy, in the press release. "Every time you wear your face covering, wash your hands, practice social distancing and take other common-sense precautions, you contribute to the team effort to reopening our economy and returning our lives to as normal as possible."

Daylight saving has struck again

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

Have you noticed yourself having to adjust your schedule lately due to it getting dark earlier? Daylight Saving (yep, it really is missing an “s”) Time (DST) ended on Nov. 1. DST starts in March, which is when we move the clocks forward one hour, and then ends in November, when we move the clocks back one hour.

Daylight Saving Time originated centuries ago as a way to conserve energy, avoid using excess resources to light up your house, and give more daylight during the working hours of the day. However, with modern technology and new lifestyles, many are questioning why we keep moving the clocks back and forth.

Not all states participate in DST; Hawaii and Arizona refrain from moving their clocks, unlike the rest of the United States and Canada. In addition, Indiana has only recently begun to observe time changes as of 2006. In recent years, the uproar of those opposing DST has grown throughout California, and there was discussion of passing a bill to end the archaic practice in California.

In 2018, Proposition 7 made it to the California ballot and proposed im-



Sophie Phelps / Terra Nova Times

The sun set at the incredibly early at 5:11 pm after we changed the clocks.

plementing permanent Daylight Saving Time, meaning we would not have changed the clocks this month. 62% of voters voted in favor of no longer chang-

ing the clocks, yet we are still participating in it this year. This is because in order for the bill to officially become law, there has to be a two thirds vote in favor in the

CA state Senate, which did not happen because the federal government refused to allow CA to abandon DST. Numerous government officials throughout California are still continuing to fight against the time change, despite their lost efforts thus far. Assemblyman Kansen Chu is particularly upset but has vowed to keep fighting, saying, “Unfortunately, the California State Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications did not bring AB (Assembly Bill) 7 up for vote and the bill died...I will continue my advocacy at the state and federal level to uphold Californians’ will to get rid of our outdated practice of switching the clock back and forth...”

California is not the only state struggling with the fight against changing the clocks. In 2018, Florida also proposed a bill that would end Daylight Saving Time. Since then, states such as Arkansas, Delaware, Maine, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, South Carolina, Utah, and Wyoming have all requested to keep their clocks the same throughout the year. Refusing to change the clocks for DST is also currently against federal law and would require action on behalf of Congress in order to be formally introduced in any of these states.

Five-year-old boy finds missing SF Zoo lemur

By Kyle Gossage
Times staff writer

On Oct. 14, 2020, Maki, an endangered ring-tailed lemur, was discovered to be missing from the San Francisco Zoo. Maki was born in the zoo and has lived there his entire life with his lemur family. As for why Maki, in particular, was stolen, the working theory is that as the oldest member of the troop, Maki is also the slowest. This made him easy for the thief to catch. Why the thief took a lemur in the first place still remains a mystery.

Maki’s home is in the Lipman Family Lemur Forest inside the Zoo’s property. Upon further investigation, the San Francisco Police Department found signs of forced entry into the lemur’s habitat. However, after that, the trail went cold. The police offered a \$2,100 reward for the lemur’s safe return — \$100 for

every year of Maki’s 21 years.

According to Tanya Peterson, the Executive Director of the San Francisco Zoo, “Maki is an older animal that requires special care.” The lemur could only go so many days without proper care without the risk of long-lasting damages or effects. Ring-Tailed lemurs are very rare animals — the reason behind the lemur-napping is still unknown, but it could have been for monetary reasons or entirely accidental.

The urban environment of San Francisco that surrounds the zoo where Maki was held is very dangerous for exotic animals. All animals, especially those accustomed to captivity, are unable to adjust to the urban climate, and living in it can be very dangerous for both lemurs and other species that live there. Food, water, and shelter for wild animals is scarce. This can result in wild animals, like Maki, reaching into

dumpsters or trash to find food. This is especially dangerous for the animal as many human foods can be toxic to animals.

Luckily, only five days after Maki’s disappearance, he was found just five miles away by a five-year-old boy playing at the playground of the Hope Lutheran Church in Daly City. SFPD made quick work of the case after that, announcing on Oct. 16 that they had arrested 30-year-old Cory McGilloway on charges of burglary, grand theft of an animal, looting, and vandalism.

The SF Zoo made a donation to the Hope Lutheran Church to thank them for their help, and on Oct. 30, Mayor London Breed presented five-year-old James Trinh with a certificate of honor from the City of San Francisco, and the San Francisco Zoo gave James and his family a lifetime membership to the zoo. Maki the lemur is safe and healthy back at the SF Zoo.



Pxhere

One of a few ring tailed lemurs in zoos around the world.

2020 sets another record: most named Atlantic storms in a season

By Kyle Gossage
Times staff writer

2020 strikes again: this hurricane season is the worst one yet with a record 29 named storms in a single season. Hurricane season normally spans from late spring/early summer to late fall. Hurricanes are named using male and female names in alphabetical order on a six-year rotation. If a hurricane is exceptionally deadly or costly, its name is removed from the rotation forever. If more than 21 hurricanes occur in one season, the Greek alphabet is used for further naming.

Currently, Hurricane Eta, the 28th named storm this season, is ravaging Florida, poised to make its fourth landfall on Florida’s Gulf Coast. The 29th named storm is Theta, whose path isn’t known yet.

Jennifer Collins PhD, a professor at the School of Geosciences at the University of South Florida said, “The 2020 hurricane season is forecast to have double the activity compared to average. We are only just over half way through the season and are already on the Greek alphabet for naming them. Also, La Nina conditions just kicked in. La Nina tends to cause more hurricanes in the North Atlantic so this does not bode

well for the rest of the reason.” Collins described the La Nina conditions as a result in the cooling of Pacific coast waters. This then leads to cooler breezes coming from the west into the Gulf of Mexico. When these cool winds meet the warm winds and water in the Gulf, it is a perfect recipe for a hurricane.

Hurricanes are formed through differences in pressure. It starts as a pocket of low pressure air; this pocket gradually sucks more and more air until a hurricane forms around it. Hurricanes are fueled by the ocean and lose power when they transition to land. A hurricane by definition needs to have wind speeds

of at least 74 mph. Beyond this, hurricanes are ranked by the Saffir-Simpson System from 1 being the lowest to a 5 being the highest and most dangerous. Currently, Hurricane Eta is clocking 75 mph winds as a Category 1 hurricane.

Climate change is affecting the amount and intensity of the hurricanes we receive each year. The more dramatic our weather patterns, the more hurricanes we receive. Paul Dellegatto, the Chief Meteorologist at FOX13 News said, “Waters have been warmer than average that helps fuel hurricanes. There has also been reduced vertical shear which allows storms to organize easier.”

Pets and animals can get sick, too

By Elliott Song
Times staff writer

Since the middle of summer, there have been reports of wildlife wandering around empty cities as people sit at home during quarantine. You can only wonder how these animals have been affected throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

At the Bronx Zoo in New York, five tigers and a few lions contracted COVID-19. Accounts of sick and coughing tigers indicate that COVID-19 can affect animals the same as it can affect us. Symptoms of COVID-19 in pets and animals are fairly similar to those in humans: coughing, sneezing, and lethargy to name a few. Don't panic if your pet displays these symptoms, though, as they are also symptoms of many other normal illnesses that pets are prone to.

According to the CDC, how contagious an infected animal will be is inconsistent and very specific to the species. Also, there has not been extensive research on how



Courtesy of Project Coyote

One of many coyotes that have come into quiet cities in search of food.

COVID-19 spreads between people and animals. Wildlife can carry the virus, but oftentimes, it is in a form that does not spread to humans. The chances of you being infected by an animal is highly unlikely.

If your animal is sick, you should treat it like you would any

other person with COVID-19 and minimize contact. Most veterinarians should be able to test your animal for COVID-19 if needed; however, because of the lack of risk of actually getting the virus from a pet, it is usually not recommended. In terms of treating your pet, there is not

much you can do other than keeping them fed and rested.

Many people may think that the wildlife and animals are being given the opportunity to rebuild themselves and thrive due to people quarantining, but that is hardly true at all. In many places across the world,

illegal deforestation, mining, and poaching are still taking place. In areas of the world, specifically Africa, poachers have leveraged the situation to their advantage. The lack of workers on natural reserves due to quarantine allow for an increase in the poaching of animals. The Global Conservation Force, an organization focused on saving wildlife from extinction through different efforts including anti-poaching, stated "With reduced numbers of tourists visiting wildlife parks, there are fewer vehicles driving around to deter poachers."

Before quarantine, the constant presence of people made some animals reliant on people and their waste for food. People around the world have reported that some animals such as different types of birds, rats, and monkeys in some parts of Asia have been struggling to find food. Some animals have grown more confident in coming out, but don't worry about these sightings — most animals that have ventured out this far are simply curious.

Watch out for mountain lions in Pacifica

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

With numerous changes in the environment for wildlife over the past few months, neighborhoods are beginning to see an increase in wildlife traffic throughout their streets. Recently, a mountain lion was spotted roaming the streets of Pacifica, watching young children at play. Neighbors who saw the mountain lion told others to bring their children in immediately and helped drive the big cat out of the neighborhood. This incident has made many aware of the increase in the number of wild animals that they see in their residential areas.

Current wildfires and changes in human presence in certain areas due to COVID-19 have allowed wildlife to expand their territory, slowly working their way into people's backyards. The wildfires have destroyed thousands of acres that were previously home to hundreds of animal and have pushed these animals into



Anna Julian

Mountain lion spotted by Anna Julian. Deer spotted by Sophie Phelps

more highly populated regions, creating a larger risk for both animals and people.

The most recent mountain lion sighting was a bit too close for comfort after it waited across the street from children



Sophie Phelps / Terra Nova Times

who were riding bikes, oblivious of the animal that was watching them. The neighbor who spotted the mountain lion, Timothy Kerrisk, was quite concerned when he found the Mountain Lion stand-

ing outside his house: "I screamed at [the neighbors] to run inside ... I chased it off into the side yard and up the back hill."

In addition to this incident, in late August, another mountain lion had been seen on someone's front porch via their front door camera. The confrontations with wild animals will rise as more continue to flee the fires and people install more front-door cameras.

Mountain lions are not the only wildlife that you will begin to see more of — deer, raccoons, coyotes, and numerous other small animals have had an increased presence throughout neighborhoods.

TN student Anna Julian (12) encountered a mountain lion on a walk, and she said, "I was terrified, but luckily there was another man nearby, and we slowly walked past it together."

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends that you are aware of wildlife present in your area, and keep encounters or interactions to a minimum. These animals have no interest in being any closer to humans than they have to.

Jurassic Park may become reality with more prehistoric discoveries

By Eleanor Jonas
Times staff writer

In the week of Sept. 13, Russia's North-Eastern Federal University announced the discovery of a perfectly preserved ice age bear in the Russian arctic, uncovered by melting permafrost. Likely a relative of the modern brown bear from 22,000-39,500 years ago, its nose, teeth, and internal organs are intact. Prior to this discovery, only skulls and bones of similar specimens were found.

In recent years, Siberia's

melting permafrost has revealed an increasing number of ancient preserved animals, most from the Pleistocene Epoch, which ended 12,000 years ago. Unfortunately, the permafrost is melting because of climate change, and according to Robert Ross, the Associate Director for Outreach at the Paleontological Research Institution in New York, is part of a "feedback effect in which greenhouse gases that are stored in the permafrost like carbon dioxide and methane are being released at an accelerated rate."

In 2017, a tens of thousands

of years old cub was found near the Tirkhtyakh River. Just under two months old when it died, the cub is thought to be either a cave lion or Eurasian lynx, both rare for the Ice Age.

The next year brought several discoveries, including an 18,000-year-old puppy, dubbed Dogor, near Yakutsk. Remarkably well preserved and complete with teeth and hair, DNA testing shows Dogor falls somewhere between a wolf and a dog. The oldest common ancestor between the two species was previously thought to have lived around 40,000 years ago.

In 2018, a juvenile Lena horse was found in Batagayka Crater, Russia. Lena horses are an ancestor to modern horses, and this particular horse died about 40,000 years ago with a preserved tail, organs, and hooves.

Permafrost is also uncovering woolly mammoths, rhinos, extinct big cats, and other ancestors of modern animals. Though acknowledging the environmental impact of melting permafrost, Ross points out the benefits to paleontology: "These individual animals are a terrific window on ancient life that we could otherwise not have," he said.

Because these animals are so well preserved, paleontologists can study their diets and DNA. A few scientists are hopeful that the soft tissue will offer more genetic material than fossils and provide insight into the cloning of prehistoric species; however, these findings only contain pieces of DNA strands.

According to Ross, "The vast majority of paleontologists think the significance of this is that we can understand their evolutionary relationships...using a quantity of data that we simply don't have when all we have is the shape of bones."

Y2K fashion makes a comeback

By Natasha Valdez
Times staff writer

Now more than ever, people are experimenting with the limitless boundaries of fashion. Y2K fashion is the latest comeback that has taken the internet by storm. The bold, colorful, and urban style, along with the grunge, hardware aesthetic of the 90s and 2000s allows people to be expressive in their clothing. “Mean Girls” and Bratz Dolls are the main inspiration behind the tracksuits, tiny skirts, and crop tops in Y2K fashion. Men’s fashion from this era is often embodied by baggy cargo pants, oversized T-shirts, leather, and big jackets; however, all fashion is not defined by gender.

Celebrities such as Aaliyah, Tupac, Paris Hilton, Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake, and Destiny’s Child had a huge influence on fashion in the late 90s and early 2000s. Popular mov-

ies such as “Legally Blonde,” “13 going on 30,” “Lizzy McGuire,” and “Fast and Furious” also helped to influence Y2K culture. Juicy velvet tracksuits, tight skirts, mesh tops, patterned tank tops, mom jeans, patterned pants, and baggy pants are all elements in Y2K fashion.

Accessories are crucial to the aesthetic of the era. Earrings, mini purses, blinged-out jewelry, chokers, hair clips, sunglasses, chains, and belts add to the uniqueness of Y2K fashion.

Terra Nova alumna Rachel Pagan is excited about the comeback. “I think these things becoming mainstream is awesome because it is different than what trends used to be. It used to be a lot of simplicity in one article of clothing that people chose to focus on, but now it’s a whole world of things you can try and look for inspiration from everybody’s favorite celebrities and things they were wearing in the 90s. I like that



Courtesy of Buddy Vaughan

High saturation, bucket hats, and Sublime define Y2K.

it is more different for people and can push people out of their comfort zone! I do adore me a good low rise jean and the hair clips, I think that is the most adorable thing ever!” she said.

The 90s/2000s combination of baggy jeans, crop tops, low rise pants, flannels, halter tops, animal print, tube tops, vests, sleek sunglasses, leather jackets, and sneakers take urban streetwear to a whole new level.

Social media has allowed people to show off this eye-catching aesthetic in quarantine with the added bonus of editing capabilities to help accentuate the era’s vibe. Y2K enthusiast Buddy Vaughan (11) said, “I’ve gotten more into it recently, but I think it kinda started at the beginning of sophomore year. I really love how colorful and saturated it all is. I really like the look of mixing colors that aren’t normally mixed, but making it look put together. There’s a lot of randomness to it, and I love the way people can really turn it into whatever they want.”

Y2K fashion is quickly gaining popularity on social media sites such as Tik Tok, Instagram, Pinterest, and VSCO.

If you can’t name it, you can’t create it

By Natasha Valdez
Times staff writer

Oftentimes, the environment around us reflects who we are. Whether it be your favorite tapestry, a plethora of plants, or a vintage desk — everybody has their preferences when it comes to home decor. Home decor terminology such as minimalistic, mid-century modern, indoor/outdoor, rustic, and modern aesthetics are used to help define different styles for a room or home and act as guiding principles. Interior design is a whole new world that intrigues many.

Minimalistic furnishing is typically for people that appreciate a simple and clean look. Minimalist homes usually go by two solid colors, consisting of neutral colors such as white, tan, and light grey. Sleek interiors, clean lines, symmetry, and solid colors are utilized to emphasize this aesthetic. Minimalism originates from the Minimalist Art



Courtesy of Alana Heusser

Plants and earth tones make Alana’s room comforting.

Movement in the 1960s where artists such as Frank Stella created pieces that were characterized by extreme simplicity. Modern-day minimalists live by “less is more” in home decor.

Branching off of minimalism is the modern home decor style. Modern homes include simple, neutral color palettes and crisp lines and are characterized by the use of different materials

such as glass, metal, steel, and stone. Decor that suits modern homes focuses on large-scale art pieces, a variety of textures, and large rugs for a homey vibe. Modern design is sleek, natural, and decluttered. If you are going for a contemporary, sophisticated aura, then modern interior furnishing is the way to go.

Mid-century modern decor originated in the 1940s with emphasis on nature, unique architecture, and a retro furniture style. The color palette is a twist on natural tones, consisting of olive, mustard, rust, and brown colors. Interior wise, mid-century is characterized by natural wood, simple lines, and unique shapes. The style of mid-century modern homes are typically rustic and earthy vibes, achieved through muted earth tones and wood furniture. Decor includes retro art, vintage accessories, wood details, intriguing patterns, and bold textures. Mid-century modern is a comforting and high-func-

tioning style for any home that allows ample room for creativity and vintage expression.

Last but certainly not least, there are indoor/outdoor inspired homes. The aesthetic of an indoor/outdoor space is made up of earth tones and lots of plant life. This home has features of beautiful nature that comes with plants, greenery, flowers, and vines. Alana Heusser (10) has taken on aspects of this aesthetic. “I’m just a firm believer in the fact that your room should be your happy place and it should be a place where you feel comfortable and just creates a good vibe for you to wake up to. Over quarantine, I just thought that adding more plants to my room would make it feel more homey and they make me happy,” she said.

Adding plants to a room gives it more life and energy, almost acting as an indoor garden. People that love plants and nature pull towards homes like this and enjoy the simplicity of it.

Today’s make-up draws upon a long and colorful global history

By Natasha Valdez
Times staff writer

Have you ever wondered how makeup came to be what it is today? In contrast to the modern way makeup is used to express personality, makeup was historically used for spiritual protection. A variety of natural items were utilized to emphasize facial features, from animal fat to flower petals — makeup has not always been powders and crème.

The concept of makeup was invented about 6,000 years ago by the first dynasty of Egypt. Egyptian men and women used kohl to line their eyes, commonly made from mineral lead. Other mixtures

included lead ore and copper. Women created blush using red clay, ochre with water, and or animal fat, and this was applied to their cheeks and lips. Ancient Egyptians used makeup as a sign as holiness and an extension of spirituality. They believed that it gave them protection from the gods Horus and Ra.

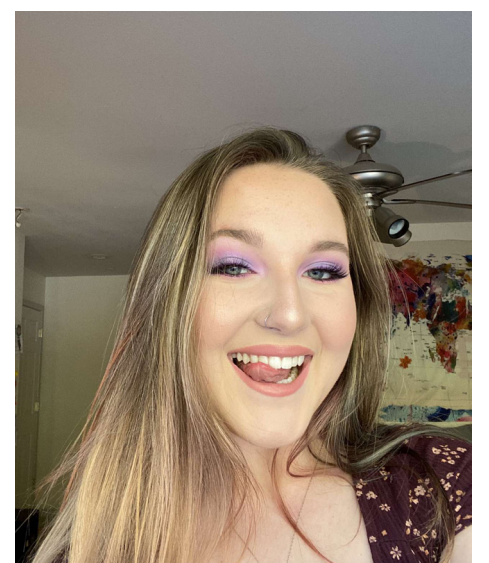
Ancient China began nail painting in 3000 BCE as a symbol of social class. Colors like gold and silver meant royalty, and lower classes were forbidden from wearing bright nail colors. Plum blossom makeup, otherwise known as blush, originated from a folk tale about a princess and was the main cosmetic in ancient China.

In 17th century Japan, Geisha female entertainers, along with traditional Os-

hiroki makeup, emerged. This class used safflower petals as lipstick. These petals were used as lip and eyebrow pigment, followed by rice powder to color their face.

Unlike in 2020, makeup in the 20th century was only made to imitate pale complexion. Having pale complexion meant wealth because the person did not have to labor for a living. Many people applied arsenic to their face to lighten their complexion, which came with a multitude of risks.

Today, men and women use makeup to enhance features and express creativity. Makeup enthusiast, Cami Ward (12) said, “I fell in love with makeup around 8th grade. I loved the art of it and being able to create something new every time.”



Courtesy of Cami Ward