



CEDAR HILL HIGHLIGHTS

TWO CEDAR HILL HIGH SCHOOL ART SCHOLARS WIN DALLAS MAVERICKS BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART CONTEST

Cedar Hill High School juniors Felix Mendes and Jorge Whitaker were honored as two of the five winners of the Dallas Mavericks Black History Month Art Contest, which was open to high school scholars across the Metroplex.

Mendez and Whitaker were recognized during the Mavericks' February 27 victory over the Charlotte Hornets and were greeted on the American Airlines Center court by Mavericks legend Rolando Blackman and current Mavericks player Caleb Martin.

"I'd never seen an opportunity like this. I never thought I'd get this far," Mendes said.

Both scholars have their winning art on display at the African American Museum in Dallas. They also received an all-expenses paid trip, courtesy of the Dallas Mavericks, to travel to Washington D.C., March

14-16 where they'll visit the National Museum of African American History.

Both Mendes and Whitaker qualified for the Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) April 25-26 in San Marcos. Whitaker's art won a gold medal for the VASE Contest with the same artwork that won the Mavericks contest. Mendes won a VASE gold medal with different artwork.

"I created a dual face to represent the past and current versions of myself, to show how I've become interested in my Christian faith now," said Whitaker, who moved to Cedar Hill from Brooklyn, New York.

Mendes created a portrait of an African American man "to symbolize self expression and gratitude toward the Black community."

TRI-CITY TALES: JESSICA RABBIT

Like many teenagers, Amaya Stephens wanted a new pet. Unlike most, she set her heart on a bunny. Soft, affectionate, and undeniably adorable, rabbits have a special charm—especially with the rise of TikTok accounts dedicated to bunny owners.

A rabbit wasn't exactly what Amaya's mom, Melissa Valadez, had in mind. Still, she went along with it. As Cedar Hill's city manager, Melissa had connections at Tri-City Animal Shelter. She asked them to let her know if a stray rabbit was ever brought in. Not long after, Jessica arrived—Jessica Rabbit.

After Easter, shelters often see an influx of abandoned rabbits. Parents who think a live bunny in an Easter basket is an adorable idea soon realize that rabbits require long-term care. They need specialized food, and they love to chew—on everything.

Jessica had been left outside the shelter in a cardboard box on a scorching summer day. Because the sound of barking dogs can be stressful for rabbits (they are natural prey for canines, after all), the shelter staff quickly found her a foster home. But since the foster parent couldn't keep her permanently, shelter director Tammy Miller called Melissa.

Melissa and Amaya went to the shelter that day just to take a look. Melissa thought: We'll just foster her. Amaya thought: That's my rabbit!

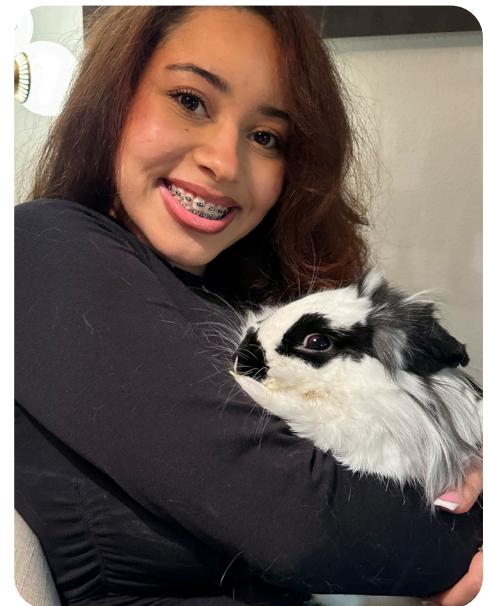
That was four years ago. Jessica has never left Amaya's room since.

"She's everything I wanted," Amaya says. And more. Jessica requires a special diet of hay, kale, carrots, and rabbit pellets. She has chewed through baseboards, rugs, and—on one unforgettable day—an electrical cord. Still, Amaya adores her, scratching her behind her extra-large ears and laughing when she gets the zoomies, racing and leaping in joyful backflips.

Rabbits—aside from the chocolate kind—are for everyone. But when they find the right person, they bring happiness in leaps and bounds.

Tri-City Tales are published monthly by the Friends of TriCity Animal Shelter.

To subscribe, visit tricityfriends.org.



PEOPLE MAKE IT A COMMUNITY



CHISD Superintendent, Dr. Hudson, Mayor Mason, and Councilman Malone pictured at the State of the City Address.



Mayor's Teen Council kicks off April early with an Easter Egg hunt at the Tri-City Animal Shelter and Adoption Center.



Spring Break at Dogwood Canyon was filled with nature adventures as students learned to fish with Ranger Will from Cedar Hill State Park.



UPCOMING EVENTS



HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN STREET DANCE

APRIL 26 | 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.

501 TEXAS STREET

Enjoy free, family-friendly fun with live music by The Private Orchid Band, bringing the smooth sounds of Motown in Downtown!



CEDAR HILL FARMERS MARKET

MAY 10 | 9 A.M.

300 HOUSTON ST

Join us in Historic Downtown to enjoy locally grown and handcrafted products.



MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

MAY 27

City facilities, including the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, Tri-City Animal Shelter, Traphene Hickman Library, and Senior Activity Center will be closed.



MUSIC IN THE PARK

JUNE 6, 13, 20, & 27 AT 8 P.M.

VALLEY RIDGE PARK

Bring a chair and a friend out to Valley Ridge Park Amphitheater for live music!



JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

JUNE 19

City facilities, including the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, Tri-City Animal Shelter, Traphene Hickman Library, and Senior Activity Center will be closed.



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

JUNE 19 | 5 P.M. - 10 P.M.

501 E. WINTERGREEN ROAD, DESOTO

Admission is free to the Best Southwest cities' Juneteenth Celebration with food, arts and crafts, and live entertainment.



PAPER SHREDDING

JUNE 28 | 9 A.M. - NOON

GOVERNMENT CENTER

Secure paper shred at the Cedar Hill Government Center. Bring up to 3 boxes of residential household paper waste.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

MAY 13

JUNE 9

MAY 27

JUNE 23

The City Council meets at the Cedar Hill Government Center at 6 p.m. Agendas are posted 72 hours in advance at cedarhilltx.com/agenda.

POETIC JUSTICE DIGITAL MEDIA STUDIO NOW OPEN FOR BOOKINGS

Cedar Hill's Poetic Justice Digital Media Studio at the Traphene Hickman Library is now open, offering a cutting-edge space for creators, storytellers, and visionaries. Whether recording voiceovers, launching a podcast, or producing an audio project, this studio is designed to bring creative visions to life.

Equipped with professional-grade technology, the studio provides a high-quality recording environment where users have full control over their projects. Creators are welcome to bring a partner or collaborator to assist with production. To ensure a smooth experience, knowledgeable staff will be available at the start of each session for setup and will assist with wrap-up when the session concludes.

Each user may book up to two four-hour sessions per week. To reserve a session, visit the Technology tab at www.cedarhilllibrary.org.



THE LAGOON SEASON PASSES ON SALE NOW



FREQUENTLY USED NUMBERS

- Emergency 911
- Administration (972) 293-1467
- After Hours (972) 780-6643
- Animal Control (972) 223-6111
- Animal Shelter (972) 291-5335
- Fire Dept. (972) 291-1011
(Non-Emergency)
- Library (972) 291-7323
- Municipal (972) 291-5100
Court ext. 1041
- Neighborhood (469)-272-2801
Services
- Parks & (972) 291-5100
Recreation ext. 1500
- Police Dept. (972) 291-5100
(Non-Emergency) ext. 2400
- Recreation Center (972) 293-5288
- Senior Center (972) 291-5353
- Trash & Recycling (800) 772-8653
- Utility Billing (469) 272-2931

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