

S.H.A.P.E. Continued from Front Page



Xander Young and his mom, Joi Beasley

organize a fundraiser to support Jack and Jill of America’s Foundation—which is the oldest African American-led nonprofit in the United States. The foundation is dedicated to advocating for African American children and families by investing in programs and services that create a strong foundation for children to thrive long-term.

As a demonstration of their outstanding leadership and compassion, the teens voted to dedicate \$7,300 of the proceeds they planned to raise to S.H.A.P.E. Community Center in response to the devastating fire that severely impacted and halted much of the center’s operations. The funds raised will assist in the restoration of S.H.A.P.E.’s facilities and support ongoing programs that benefit countless individuals and families in Houston. The donation highlights the power of youth activism and the profound impact that collective efforts can have in times of need.

This remarkable effort was led by Xander Young, a rising 17-year-old junior at St. Thomas High School and the Houston Metropolitan Chapter’s Teen Fundraising Chair. “Seeing our teens come together with such commitment and empathy to aid S.H.A.P.E. has been truly inspiring,” said Xander, a multifaceted and driven young man who exemplifies leadership and dedication both in and out of the classroom. “We wanted to show our support for an organization that has given so much to the community, and we are proud of what we achieved together.”

Xander tells *Forward Times* that the teens at the Houston Metropolitan Chapter of Jack and Jill were motivated to raise money for S.H.A.P.E. Community Center following the fire because they were inspired by the stories of those who have benefited from S.H.A.P.E.’s programs, and they felt compelled to ensure these opportunities continue to be available for future generations.

“We believe in the power of community and the importance of giving back. It is a part of what we do as Jack and Jill Teens,” Xander stated. “The S.H.A.P.E. Community Center provides essential resources and support services that positively impact the lives of many families in our area. As a group of Jack and Jill teens, we wanted to make a tangible difference and demonstrate our commitment to social responsibility.”

S.H.A.P.E. Community Center has been a staple in Houston’s African American community since 1969, under the stellar visionary leadership of Brother Deloyd Parker, who founded the storied organization and continues to lead it with grace, passion, humility, and dignity.

Deloyd Parker expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the youth from the Houston Metropolitan Chapter of Jack and Jill for their donation.

“The generosity and hard work of these young people are a testament to the spirit of community and resilience,” Brother Parker emphasized. “This support will help us continue our mission of service and empowerment.”

Encouraging other youth to contribute positively to their community, Xander states that giving back can be displayed in many different ways to make a difference.

“Giving back can be done in any way they can, even as little as throwing some trash away,” Xander stated. “They can contribute by volunteering their time, starting fundraisers, and joining or leading clubs.”

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is an organization dedicated to nurturing the next generation of African American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving, and civic duty.

For more information about the Houston Metropolitan Chapter of Jack and Jill of America and their activities, please visit [www.jackandjillhoustonmetro.org](http://www.jackandjillhoustonmetro.org).

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – Lease-Purchase Financing – LP07-25**

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified providers of lease-purchase financing products and services to make them available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.hgacbuy.org/bid-notice>.

**Response Deadline: May 1, 2025 @ 12:00 P.M. CDT**

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Community & Environmental – Livable Centers Study: Fresno – TRN25-01**

H-GAC is seeking qualified contractor services to conduct a study and develop a plan to further the goals of the Livable Centers program in Fresno (referred to as “sponsor” or “local sponsor” in this document). The Contractor will develop a plan that addresses the application of the Livable Centers program goals in the specified study area. Since this project requires a range of research, public engagement, transportation, and planning expertise, a team of specialized firms is permitted.

To view/download the solicitation documents visit <https://www.h-gac.com/procurement>.

**Response Deadline: May 8, 2025 @ 12:00 P.M. CST**

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Choice Partners (CP)**, a division of Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), is a national cooperative that will be accepting proposals in response to the following Request for Proposals (RFP). Interested proposers may go to [www.choicepartners.org](http://www.choicepartners.org) and register to download the solicitation or call 877-696-2122.

- **RFP 25/025SG for Promotional and Commemorative Items are due by Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025 @ 2:00 PM CT**

**All proposals must be submitted via the HCDE online eBid System at the following link: <https://hcdcebid.ionwave.net>.**

Proposals will be opened via Zoom; Information regarding dates, times, and a link to join the meeting is located within the eBid System under the “Activities” tab specific to the solicitation.

### PROPOSAL NOTICE

**The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD will be accepting proposals for the following:**

**Pest, Termite and Bed Bug Services**

**Specifications may be secured from The Harris Center website [www.theharriscenter.org](http://www.theharriscenter.org) beginning Tuesday, April 8, 2025.** The Harris Center utilizes Bonfire for their solicitations <https://theharriscenter.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openopportunities>. A Mandatory site visit with vendors will be held at 2627 Caroline St., Houston, Texas, 77004 on **Monday, April 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM.** Deadline for prospective vendors to submit questions to this RFP is Friday, April 18, 2025. Proposals must be submitted by **11:00 a.m., Monday, May 5, 2025.** Historically Underutilized Businesses, including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses are encouraged to participate. The Harris Center reserves all rights to reject any and/or all proposals, to waive formalities and reasonable irregularities in submitted documents as it deems to be in its best interests and is not obligated to accept the lowest proposal.

### HELP WANTED

**Federal Signal Corporation** has an opening for a Manufacturing Business Analyst III in Houston, TX. 40 hours/week.

**JOB DUTIES:** Implement the Advance Configurator in JDE E1. Setup multi-level BOM, debug issues BOM related issues. Assess legacy systems and define an implementation for migration to JDE. Setup Forecasting in JDE and setup best practices. Identify business requirements and develop recommendations improvements and automation. Serve as the subject matter expert and facilitate business process reviews. Work with stakeholders at all levels of business. Translate requirements into development specs. Define and document business requirements and solutions. Utilize or develop processes to ensure the timely delivery of required information to internal and external customers. Develop project plans and other project documents, monitor performance. Provide Post - Implementation Support as needed. Able to work independently. Remote/telecommuting benefits available. Travel to our manufacturing facility in Houston, TX required. Domestic travel up to 2 weeks per quarter. **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** Bachelor's Degree, or foreign equivalent, in Computer Science, Management Information Systems, or related, and 10 years of experience in the job offered or related; 10 years' experience in one or multiple number of the Oracle – JD Edwards: Manufacturing/Contract Management/Service Management & JDE Configurator; 5 years of experience in implementation and support of JDE Manufacturing and Inventory Module; Successfully completed at least one full lifecycle implementation involving multiple site configuration set up, site upgrades, rollouts and supports; 7 years of experience in managing and working in cross functional team to support JDE Manufacturing and Inventory Projects; 2 years of experience developing advanced SQL statements using Toad or SQL Developer to correct production data; 7 years of experience understanding of the underlying table structures of the Manufacturing and Forecasting modules to quickly and accurately resolve production issues at the various branches using JD Edwards; 5 years of experience working on data migration of legacy database to JDE using 2-File Processes and table conversion tool set along with Interoperability; 5 years of experience reviewing and documenting manufacturing business processes and 3rd party integrator tool set based on Fit Gap Analysis.

Please apply at [HR@federalsignal.com](mailto:HR@federalsignal.com).

COUGARS Continued from Front Page



squad is known for their suffocating defensive schemes and disciplined approach to the game. If Houston can impose their defensive identity early and control the tempo, they have a real shot at shutting down Duke’s high-powered offense.

Houston basketball legend Henry Small, who played under the iconic Coach Guy V. Lewis in the 1970s, shared his thoughts exclusively with *Forward Times* on the Cougars’ success and their chances in the Final Four:

*“Ever since Kelvin Sampson’s been there, it’s been an expectation for them to do as well as they’re doing. For the last four years, he has been winding up anywhere from the Sweet 16 to the Final Eight, and he went to one Final Four before this. So, he’s back again and this time it looks like they’re going to bring home all the marbles with the team that he has. I’m definitely pulling for them to go all the way. With the team and the spirit that they play with, and the type of suffocating defense that they play with, they’re going to have a great opportunity to win the championship game if they stay true to their values and do what they normally do.”*

- Game Details**
- **Matchup:** No. 1 Houston Cougars vs. No. 1 Duke Blue Devils
  - **Date:** Saturday, April 5
  - **Time:** TBD
  - **Location:** Alamodome, San Antonio, Texas
  - **TV:** CBS
  - **Live Stream:** March Madness Live, Fubo

For Cougars fans eager to witness history, the proximity of the Alamodome makes it a perfect opportunity to support the team in person. The venue last hosted the Final Four in 2018 and is set to provide an electric atmosphere for this marquee showdown.

**Can Houston Overcome the Odds?**

The Cougars will need to bring their A-game to topple Duke’s potent offense and contain Cooper Flagg’s impact on the court. Houston’s defense, rebounding, and ability to execute in clutch moments will be key factors in determining the outcome. With a passionate fanbase behind them and a coach who has instilled a winning culture, Houston is more than capable of pulling off the upset and advancing to the national championship game.

Stay tuned, as this Houston squad looks to etch its name in college basketball history.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO)

Notice is hereby given that the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO), will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** to receive public comment on the proposed June 2025 changes to METRO service. The public is invited to attend the hearing and provide comments in person.

The public may also join the hearing and provide comments virtually on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83578706399> or by dialing: **346-248-7799** or **888-475-4499** (toll-free), meeting ID: **835 7870 6399**. Additionally, if you do not want to provide comments during the public hearing, visit [RideMETRO.org/LiveStream](http://RideMETRO.org/LiveStream) to view a livestream of the event. A video recording of the hearing will also be archived on the same page.

The proposed service changes may include:  
Route changes and schedule changes to the 40, 41, 216, 217, 219, and 297 bus routes, schedule changes to routes 3, 27, 28, 45, 46, 51, 52, 86, 98, 137, 151, 216, 217, 244, 247, 255, 256, 257, 259, 265, 270, 292, 297, and 298, change in interlocal agreement of the 291, and introduction of a new pilot route, the 500 Airport Direct.

Copies of proposed route maps and available timetables will be available beginning on **Thursday, April 3, 2025**, for public review both online and in the lobby of the METRO RideStore located in the Lee P. Brown METRO Administration Building at 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002, weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The public hearing on **Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor boardroom at 1900 Main Street, Houston, Texas (served by bus routes 6, 11, 35, 44, 51, 52, 54, 82, 85, 102, 137, 161, 162, and METRORail).

**HOW TO COMMENT ABOUT THE SERVICE CHANGES**

If you would like to make public comments in person or virtually, **please register as a public speaker with the METRO Board Office at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Call 713-739-4834 or send an email to [BoardOffice@RideMETRO.org](mailto:BoardOffice@RideMETRO.org) and provide your name, address and telephone number.** As explained above, you may attend the public hearing in person or virtually on **Thursday, April 10, 2025**, to provide comments. If you pre-register, your comments will be heard first at the public hearing. Your name will be called at the appropriate time to make your comments.

You may also provide comments by:

- Writing to us at METRO, ATTN: June 2025 Service Changes, 1900 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002
- Faxing comments with a subject line referencing "June 2025 Service Changes" to 713-652-7956
- Calling or texting METRO Customer Contact Center at 713-635-4000
- Submitting comments on the METRO website at [RideMETRO.org](http://RideMETRO.org)

**All comments should be submitted to METRO by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2025.**

**HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

For individuals with disabilities, assistive services or copies of public documents in an alternate format can be provided. Individuals with impairments may call **713-750-4271** a minimum of five (5) working days prior to the public hearing.

**LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE**

Upon request, METRO provides free language assistance to help patrons who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English, in accordance with its language assistance plan. Please call **713-739-4018** or email [METROPublicAffairs@RideMETRO.org](mailto:METROPublicAffairs@RideMETRO.org) to request language assistance or other accommodations at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.

**OTHER**

1. This public hearing conforms to requirements described in the Federal Transit Administration's Circular 9030.1E, published January 16, 2014, page VI-7.
2. METRO does not discriminate based on disability in the admission or access to, or in treatment or employment in, its services, programs, and activities.
3. METRO is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its transit services based on race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**RideMETRO.org • Call or text 713-635-4000**

**METRO**