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## Houston City Scope January 2015



Pictured with Chester Pitts are students (from left) Tamerian Lemons, Tatianna Edwards, Zionna Brown, Lauryn Qullier and Deivyon Mackey.

## **CHESTER PITTS FOUNDATION TAKES MCAULIFFE BAND MEMBERS TO SYMPHONY**

One of the benefits of being a member of the McAuliffe Middle School “Hawk” Band is enjoying the perks that result from hard work and dedication. This semester, band members enjoyed attending the Houston Symphony as honored guests of the Chester Pitts Foundation, an organization founded by former Houston Texan Chester Pitts and his wife, Latoya. The fairytale-type experience became even more meaningful for students with the donation of formal dresses and suits for them to wear, also courtesy of the Foundation.

The students had the opportunity to enjoy the Houston Symphony’s performance of “TV’s Greatest Hits,” directed by Steven Reineke with featured vocalist Nicole Parker from MadTV and Broadway’s Wicked. Following the concert, the students attended a “Meet and Greet” photo session with Pitts, Reineke and Parker.

McAuliffe’s Head Band Director Jeff Rodriguez felt the event was a huge success. “Our students were able to see professional musicianship at its finest,” he said. “The impact from having experienced the event will have a lasting effect on students. I am sincerely grateful to the Chester Pitts Foundation for providing our students with this wonderful opportunity.”

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(L to R): Irma Peterson, Deborah Connell, Daryl Hall, Anthonett Wedderburn, Janette Hawkins (Captain), Tina Angela Beddow, Roxann Bilger, Carol Andrews, Liz Wooland.

## HOUSTON WOMEN’S TENNIS TEAM FINISHED SECOND AT USTA

The women’s tennis team from Houston representing the USTA Texas Section, finished second at the USTA League Adult 55 & Over 8.0 National Championships held at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex in Surprise, Ariz.

The Houston team lost to a team from Palm City, Fla., 2-1 in the Championship match. Earlier in the day, the Houston team defeated a team from New Berlin, Wis., 2-1 in the semifinals. The team is captained by Janette Hawkins and features Irma Peterson, Deborah Connell, Daryl Hall, Anthonett Wedderburn, Tina Angela Beddow, Roxann Bilger, Carol Andrews, Liz Wooland and plays at the Lee LeClear Tennis Center.

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## MEMORIAL HERMANN LIFE FLIGHT EARNS STATE EMS AWARD

Memorial Hermann Texas Trauma Institute has announced that Memorial Hermann Life Flight was named the winner of the Texas Department of State Health Services’ 2014 EMS Air Medical Service of the Year Award. This prestigious award honors a public or private air medical service in Texas that has demonstrated the highest standards in providing patient care, leading the way in innovation and commitment to patient care. This year marks the third time that Life Flight has achieved this recognition, winning previously in 2001 and 2004.

“We are so grateful and humbled that our esteemed EMS colleagues around the Lone Star State have elected to honor us with this significant award once again,” said Tom Flanagan, chief operating officer of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, home to the Texas Trauma Institute.

Memorial Hermann Life Flight is Houston’s only hospital-based air ambulance, and it serves the community

within a 150-mile radius of the Texas Medical Center with helicopters and worldwide using fixed-wing transport. Founded in 1976 by James “Red” Duke, M.D., who still is medical director, the service operates around the clock – 24-hours a day, 365 days a year – retrieving critically ill and injured patients in the greater Houston area. Crews perform more than 3,000 missions each year, making the John S. Dunn Helistop one of the busiest helipads in the world. Since its inaugural flight, Life Flight has flown more than 140,000 missions.

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Elaine Turner

**NEW ELAINE TURNER BOUTIQUE CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING**

Blvd Place welcomed Elaine Turner Boutique with a Grand Opening celebration on Dec. 16. Along with the trendiest fashionistas in Houston, the party was hosted by Mia Gradney from KHOU 11 News and Carly Lee from C. Style Blog. Shoppers were encouraged to “Live Glamorously!” and enjoyed light bites and a signature cocktail provided byTABLE on Post Oak. Twenty percent of the evenings proceeds were donated to Heroes for Children.

# HERMANN PARK RESTAURANT GRAND OPENING

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, Davis Street at Hermann Park celebrated its Grand Opening. The night was extra special as the restaurant partnered with Double Cross Vodka and the Robert Garner Firefighter Foundation for specialty cocktails and exciting surprises.

Featured menu items for the night included tuna 6, fig and prosciutto flatbread, buffalo chicken spring rolls, house-made rotisserie chicken, maple glaze duck, Chilean sea bass, chicken and shrimp pappadelle and an 8 oz. center cut filet.

What began with an idea to cater to a special community is now set to be one of Houston’s most iconic full-service hospitality concepts that reflects the culture and history of this exceptional location as well as the artisans of the Hermann Park area. Call 844-DAVIS-ST (844-328-4778) for more information.



Dan Tearpock Miracle Team participated in PurpleStride Houston 2014 in memory of Daniel Tearpock, who lost his three-year battle with pancreatic cancer in February 2013. Dan’s wife, Diana Tearpock, far right, was one of over 1,700 participants in the 5K.

## PURPLESTRIDE HOUSTON RAISES \$271,000 AND AWARENESS ABOUT PANCREATIC CANCER

The Houston Affiliate of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PCAN), the national organization creating hope in a comprehensive way through research, patient support, community outreach and advocacy for a cure, held their fourth annual PurpleStride Houston 2014, a 5k run/walk at NRG Park Saturday, Nov. 1. More than 1,778 children and adults participated in the event, which raised \$271,000. The community event, which was planned entirely by local volunteers, had something for everyone, including children’s activities, live

music, refreshments and more. Participants and supporters were able to enjoy perfect weather during the festivities. To learn more about PCAN and the Houston Affiliate, visit [pancan.org](http://pancan.org).

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(L-R) Board Chairman Michael Jhin with Dr. Elizabeth McIngvale-Cegelski, Joan Alexander, and Dr. Drew Pinsky.

## **MHA HOUSTON FETES 60TH ANNIVERSARY AT TREASURES OF TEXAS GALA**

More than 300 guests joined Mental Health America of Greater Houston (MHA) to celebrate its 60th Anniversary at its 2014 Treasures of Texas Gala. This year's event themed, "Our Promise: Investing in Children's Mental Health," showcased the organization's School Behavioral Health Initiative, and launched its new public service announcement campaign, "Your Child's Emotional Backpack," which is scheduled to air on television, radio and on social media in 2015.

An emotional conversation on children's mental health with national behavioral health expert, television show host and author, Dr. Drew Pinsky and International OCD Foundation spokesperson and Peace of Mind Foundation founder, Dr. Elizabeth McIngvale-Cegelski highlighted the event which concluded with McIngvale-Cegelski, a dedicated advocate and MHA Houston board member, receiving the Spirit of Hope Award. Gala Chairs were Lisa Mellencamp, Nancy Corbet, and Lisa Yoho.

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## **QUEENSBURY THEATRE HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The curtains will soon open at the new Queensbury Theatre performing arts center in Town & Country, but not before Randal K. West, the new executive director, takes to the figurative stage.

With a new season of hit shows and magical theatrical numbers, Queensbury Theatre (a nod to its location on Queensbury Lane in Town & Country) is looking to make a positive impact and become a cultural landmark destination for West Houston – an area of town that currently lacks large-scale live theatre venues.

“I’m not aware of any theatre or performance space that has as much potential as Queensbury Theatre does,” West said. “The opportunity here is endless. My family and I are thrilled to be moving to Houston – the people and the cultural influence this city has is electric.”

While not a native Houstonian, West brings with him over 30 years in the business and a keen eye for great performance direction and design.

“We had an amazing pool of talent from Houston and across the country express interest in this opportunity,” said Tamara Siler, Chair of the Queensbury Theatre Search Committee. “Ultimately, Randal rose to the top because of his exceptional blend of management and fundraising experience, as well as an impressive range of artistic accomplishments and we are looking forward to have him at the helm of our new venture to further advance our artistic mission.”

One of West’s career highlights includes working beside Stephen Sondheim and George Furth, directing their musical, “Merrily We Roll Along.”

Queensbury Theatre is expected to announce the season lineup in the coming weeks. The 21,000-square-foot theatre will seat 250 in the main stage and have a 100-seat black box with the ability to host community events, rental space and event functions. For more information, visit [queensburytheatre.org](http://queensburytheatre.org).

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## CORRECTION

Antiques appraiser Dr. Lori Verderame is NOT appearing at the 15th annual Spring Home & Garden Show The Woodlands on June 3-4 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center.

We regret any inconvenience to readers who saw the announcement in the May and June issues that Dr. Lori would be a featured speaker at the event.

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