

**EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Memphis Tri-State Blues Festival is Saturday. *Page 6*

**DAILY DIGEST:** Former Tigers guard Joe Jackson arrested on gun, drug charges. *Page 6*

**DAILY DIGEST:** Airport Authority approves \$50M in contracts related to airport improvements. *Page 6*

#### MEMPHIS WEATHER

HIGH **90**  
LOW **72**

Slight chance T-storms

# THE Daily News

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NEWS

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#### UO FM FOOTBALL

### Memphis O-Line Works To Help Teammates Shine

The Memphis offensive line, anchored by Gabe Kuhn and Drew Kyser, does its job absent glory, but the quality of their work is evident in the success of the offense.

PAGE 2

#### COMMUNITY

### Civil Rights Museum To Honor 3 With Freedom Awards

The National Civil Rights Museum names its 26th Freedom Award honorees ahead of an October gala.

PAGE 7

#### THE TIPPING POINT

### Lazarov Strategizes To Strengthen Local Businesses

There's a lot Jami Lazarov can't share about her work. But as an attorney who specializes in mergers and acquisitions at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, she is helping Memphis businesses get to the next level. Meet her in this week's Tipping Point.

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#### COMMUNITY

### Memphis Rotary Moving Meetings To Clayborn Temple

The Memphis Rotary Club is preparing to move its weekly luncheons to Clayborn Temple in an effort to bring attention to the building's historical significance to the civil rights movement.

PAGE 10

## Novel Marks New Chapter for Book Lovers

#### RETAIL

JODY CALLAHAN

Special to The Daily News

If you turn your head and squint your eyes just right, you can almost believe that Davis-Kidd Booksellers is back.

That beloved Memphis institution closed in 2011 after more than 25 years in operation. The store was soon renamed the Booksellers at Laurelwood, but while it had the same location and the same employees, it wasn't

quite the same as its predecessor. Then, after barely six years in business, that store also closed down in February, leaving a gaping hole in the city for readers who still liked to visit bookstores. Now, a group of Memphians

has, in many ways, resurrected what was once the city's biggest independent bookstore. Housed in the same location where its predecessors stood for many

NOVEL CONTINUED ON P12

## CONCOURSE DEBUT



Crosstown Concourse holds its grand opening Saturday after eight years of planning and construction to transform the massive Sears Crosstown building into a "vertical urban village."

(Daily News/Houston Cofield)

### Aug. 19 opening day begins test of larger goals

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BILL DRIES

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A relatively recent urban legend, as urban legends go, is that the large elevated tract of land along Bellevue Boulevard by the interstate wall is some kind of Indian mound.

It's not. It is an area elevated in anticipation of the route federal officials in the 1960s had planned for Interstate 40 to take through Crosstown and then through Midtown. Those

plans were stopped in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case.

The legend speaks to the rediscovery of Crosstown by a generation with no firsthand memories of the original Curb Market, Tech High School, the Crosstown movie theater or Sears Crosstown.

The Sears Crosstown building, a 1.5 million-square-foot horizon-defining monolith whose first segment was built in 1927 as a Sears, Roebuck

CROSSTOWN CONTINUED ON P9

#### HEALTH CARE

## ALS/FTD Breakthrough Found With St. Jude Help

ANDY MEEK

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A team of scientists that includes researchers from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Mayo Clinic has made a breakthrough discovery about the causes of Lou Gehrig's disease, paving the way for the development of treatments.

It's significant news, in part because no effective treatment is currently available for Lou Gehrig's disease – formally called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS – as well as the related genetic disorder frontotemporal dementia, or FTD.

The researchers, including St. Jude scientist Dr. J. Paul Taylor, basically identified a biological mechanism that kills neurons as part of ALS. Taylor, who is the chair of the St. Jude Cell and Molecular Biology Department and a senior investigator for the recent project, said the disease-causing mutation identified is the first of its kind.

The findings appeared this week in the scientific journal Neuron. The researchers found

ST. JUDE CONTINUED ON P8

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& Co. store and distribution center, formally opens as Crosstown Concourse Saturday, Aug. 19.

The opening, which features a full slate of arts performances and installations in the concourse building and the plaza on its southern side, comes with a much different business plan than retail sales and catalog-order fulfillment.

Sears shut down its Crosstown retail operation in 1983; the distribution center closed 10 years after that, leaving the building completely vacant.

After \$200 million of physical work, Crosstown Concourse is what the project's stakeholders – including Crosstown Arts co-founders Todd Richardson and Chris Miner – frequently have described as a “vertical urban village”: a mixed-use development with apartments, offices, schools, retail shops, medical and health facilities, and space for the arts.

The founding partners, in addition to Crosstown Arts, include Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and its fundraising arm, ALSAC; Memphis Teacher Residency; Rhodes College; Christian Brothers University; and Church Health – the tip of the spear in a group of 20 partners overall.

That's not counting the 30 different sources of a financing puzzle that was just as crucial as the physical overhaul of the building.

“Let's be honest, even among the believers there were still a few who thought the idea was a little crazy,” said Richardson, a University of Memphis art history professor who began the idea as a “what if” conversation with video artist Miner in a seriously sidetracked discussion about an arts residency program in Mississippi.

“I didn't know what I didn't know,” Richardson said earlier this month during one of countless tours he's given of the concourse in various stages during the eight-year effort. “That comes with a lot of risk.

But I don't know that there was a day that I thought it couldn't happen.”

That doesn't mean Richardson thought it would happen easily – the perils of taking in the physical dimensions of a building that is composed of 7 million bricks with 60 percent of its exterior being windows.

Historic preservation tax credits were involved in the financing, and qualifying for the tax credits required meticulous preservation or reconstruction of the early 20th-century window types in the former distribution center area of the building.

An early plan called for renovating the separate parking garage added in the 1960s, with the Autumn Street side of the garage being a green wall of vegetation. The creative plan was nixed by the standards of the tax credits.

The loading dock area on the north side is a patio now for the retail row behind the barn-like doors once necessary for the freight that came in and out. Some are renovated originals. Others are replicas.

Inside is Mama Gaia, a vegan restaurant and food retailer whose founder, Philipp von Holtzendorff-Fehling, is part businessman/part food evangelist.

“It's all fresh. It's all organic. Yet it's fast,” he says of the concept before moving to the evangelism part in a city known for barbecue.

“You can only say so many things at one time,” he explains. “So we try to do it in stages, really, and we try to educate people as we can, and we have to get better at it.”

That means Holtzendorff-Fehling can tell you about everything served or bought in his place of business in as much detail as you want. But he often lets the food speak first and then explains what ingredients are or aren't in the items a customer likes.

He also tells customers trying the food that they will feel better.

“The people that eat us, they get it – they get it immediately,” he said. “That's something that hasn't been here before.”

Richardson likes the food evangelism and seeing the concourse's tenants

patronizing each other. And since the beginning, he has said the goal of the building, which is 94 percent leased this month, is to carry that momentum beyond the property

lines into the surrounding area.

“Success is 10 years from now the Crosstown neighborhood is revitalized and the building is still active and vibrant,” he said.

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