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## Starliner mission a 'Type A' failure

NEWS, 7A

# Times-Mail

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | TMNEWS.COM

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## 'OUR MEMORIAL TREE SURVIVED'



Executive Director of the Monroe County Humane Association Andrew Krebs looks over damage from the previous night's storm at the Monroe County Humane Association Animal Care Campus on Fieldstone Boulevard on Feb. 20.  
RICH JANZARUK/HERALD-TIMES

### Tornado damages Monroe County Humane Association site

**Laura Lane**  
The Herald-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A tornado that hit the Monroe County Humane Association's headquarters shattered windows, destroyed the roof, flooded the medical clinic, splintered

trees and caused lots of other damage. Ten animals were rescued unharmed.

Out front, amid the Feb. 19 storm's destruction, is a decorative tree where name tags of deceased veterinary clinic patients hang from spindly branches, undamaged.

The metal ID tags of Toshy, Charlie-

cat, Sophie, Dixie, Dexter and other beloved pets tinkled like windchimes in Friday morning's post-storm gusts.

"That our memorial tree survived, with all the damage around it, how about that?" MCHA Executive Director

See **TORNADO**, Page 2A

## Activist encouraged city to 'live the legacy'

**Carol Kugler**  
The Herald-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Civil rights activist, politician and ordained Baptist minister, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who died Feb. 16, was the keynote speaker at Bloomington's January 2010 Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration.

Jackson worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and James Bevel during the Civil Rights movement. In 1984, Jackson organized the Rainbow Coalition.

The Herald-Times article by Abby Tonsing shared what Jackson told the audience that day in Indiana. Using football analogies, he said people can help "live the legacy" of King's dream when they help ensure that every person has an equal chance at winning.

Jackson mentioned home and church foreclosures, student-loan defaults and credit-card scams — all caused by "refs" that left their posts, not natural disasters. Jackson said it was unregulated greed that caused the current predicament.

Tonsing's article quoted Jackson: "Right now, our country is at midday in our politics with the election of Barack Obama as president, but at midnight in our economy ... The American worker must have an even playing field."

King said that when plants close and jobs disappear, they cut the lights, creating darkness where there used to

See **ACTIVIST**, Page 2A

## Harold Bender drove fast for 80 years with no tickets



**My Favorite Ride**  
Laura Lane  
Columnist  
Bloomington Herald-Times

In April 1936, Wegmiller Lumber Co. in Bloomington hired Harold Bender. After working there 27 years, he and his son, John, purchased the company in 1963. More stores, in Martinsville, Bed-

ford, Paoli, Seymour, Washington, Linton, and Madison, were added. Harold Bender's other sons and then grandsons carried on the family business.

This past week came the announcement that Bender Lumber has been purchased by Illinois-based R.P. Lumber. The company's president described Bender Lumber owner John Bender as "the kind of person you hope to meet in business - honest, humble and deeply principled, with a great sense of humor

to boot."

John Bender is all of those things. He also has one of my favorite automobile collections in town, tucked away in an airport hangar.

Reading about the sale got me thinking about his dad, the late Harold Bender, and a favorite column I wrote in 2014 about a beloved Chevrolet El Camino the old man drove way too fast.

Here it is.

And for me, Bender Lumber will al-

ways be Bender Lumber.

**Between Model T and SUV, Bender loved El Caminos**

When Harold Bender turned 99, he renewed his driver's license. And bought that red car he always wanted. Nothing fast or fancy, though.

"Dad said he'd always been

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