

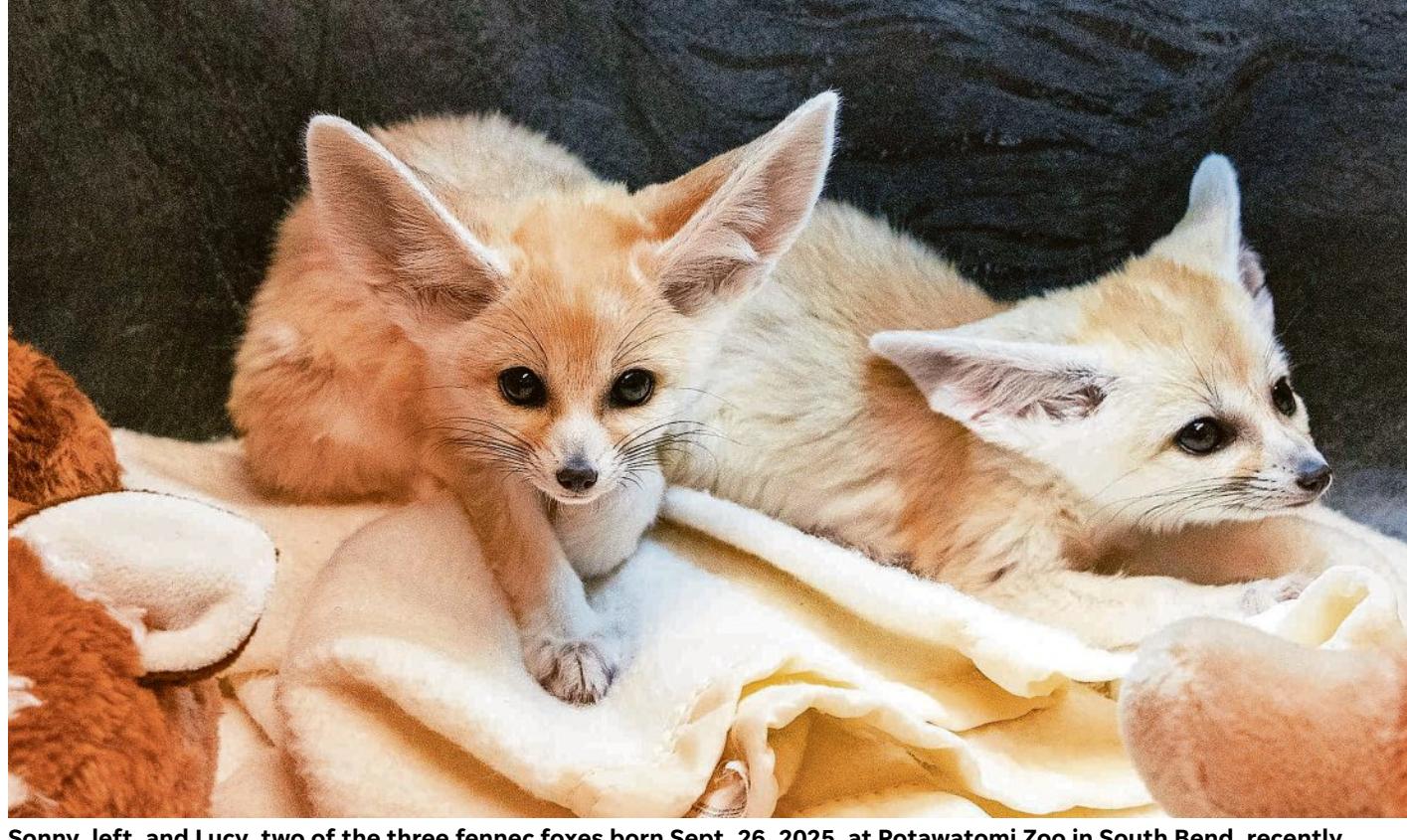
New Prairie's Staples wins championship

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South Bend Tribune

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Sonny, left, and Lucy, two of the three fennec foxes born Sept. 26, 2025, at Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, recently received their names in a partnership with local retailer J.R. Fox Jewelers. They are named for the parents of the business' founders. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY POTAWATOMI ZOO

Potawatomi Zoo's baby fennec foxes' names revealed

Andrew S. Hughes

South Bend Tribune

USA TODAY NETWORK

SOUTH BEND — The fennec fox kits born Sept. 26 at Potawatomi Zoo now have names: Lucy, Jewel and Sonny.

J.R. Fox Jewelers named the two females and one male, the zoo said in a press release.

Sonny and Lucy are named after Sonny and Lucy Fox, parents of the J.R. Fox Jewelers founders, and Jewel is named in tribute to the business.

"We're so pleased to partner with J.R. Fox Jewelers on the care of these fox kits," Potawatomi Zoo Executive Director Josh Sisk said in the release. "They've been such great supporters of the fennec foxes for several years, and we're thrilled that they've had the opportunity to name our first kits in recent

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Jewel, one of the three fennec foxes born Sept. 26, 2025, at Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, recently received her name in a partnership with local retailer J.R. Fox Jewelers.

Council seeks volunteers for standing committees

South Bend Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend Common Council is looking for volunteers to serve as citizen members on its standing committees.

According to a press release, the council encourages interested and dedicated individuals to apply to contribute their time and talents.

Committees seeking citizen members include:

- Community Investment Committee
- Community Relations Committee
- Health and Public Safety Committee
- Information and Technology Committee
- PARC Committee (Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts & Entertainment)
- Personnel and Finance Committee
- Public Works and Property Vacation Committee
- Residential Neighborhoods Committee
- Utilities Committee
- Zoning and Annexation Committee

Section 2-10(c) of the South Bend Municipal Code outlines the procedure for citizen appointments. Applicants must be residents of South Bend for at least one year, according to the announcement. Additionally, they should be available to attend meetings regularly, have an interest or background in the committee's topics, and complete a one-time orientation prior to March 1.

To apply, individuals must fill out an application at the provided link <https://tinyurl.com/2026standing-committes> by 5 p.m. Jan. 9. Please fill out an application per standing committee preference.

Council members will interview and select individuals to serve. Those

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League of Women Voters lunch to spotlight civil discourse

South Bend Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

SOUTH BEND — The League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area will host its Lunch with the League event on Jan. 9 via Zoom.

The event is scheduled to begin at noon and features Megan Halteman Zwart, provost and vice president at Saint Mary's College, as the guest speaker, according to a press release.

Zwart will discuss skills for collaborating with people who have differing viewpoints, a topic she has explored through teaching a class on dialogue and civil discourse.

About the event

The national political climate has become increasingly polarized, making it challenging for individuals to engage with those who hold opposing views, according to the announcement. Zwart

aims to provide insight into how developing dialogue skills can foster better relationships and contribute to a stronger democracy.

The event offers an opportunity for community members to engage in meaningful dialogue and learn about the skills necessary for successful collaboration across differences. As the political landscape continues to evolve, fostering civil discourse remains a critical component of a healthy democracy, the release said.

During the event, Zwart will share her experiences from directing The Dialogue Project at Saint Mary's College and her efforts to promote dialogue on campus. She has also taught a class on dialogue and civil discourse, which serves as the basis for her presentation.

Speaker credentials and work

Zwart is the founder and director of The Dialogue Project, which supports

dialogue across differences at Saint Mary's College. Her work on dialogue has been published in various academic journals and media outlets, including America Magazine, Inside Higher Ed, the Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, and the Journal of Moral Theology.

Zwart holds a bachelor's degree from Calvin College and a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame.

Registration and participation

To participate in the Lunch with the League event, individuals can access the Zoom meeting through a link at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83823938727>. Alternatively, they can visit the League website at lwvsouthbend.org or follow the organization's Facebook page (facebook.com/LWVSouthBend) for additional information.

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Megan Halteman Zwart will speak at Lunch with the League Jan. 9, 2026.

PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SOUTH BEND AREA

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