

Reveal
by KOHLER

BATH AND SHOWER REMODELING

THIS MONTH ONLY

GET **\$1,000 OFF** of Your KOHLER® Walk-In Bath
+ NO PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS†

Call today for your **FREE** in-home quote!
(574) 400-7678

*For as long as the original purchaser consumer owns his or her home. For complete warranty details, visit KOHLER.com/Warranty.

†Offer ends September 30, 2026. Participating dealers only. Not available in AK, HI, Nassau City, Suffolk City, Westchester City, or City of Buffalo, NY. \$1,000 off average price of KOHLER walk-in bath. Reveal by KOHLER Authorized Dealers set all prices and are responsible for full amount of discount. Cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Contact Reveal by KOHLER Authorized Dealer for financing details.

South Bend Tribune

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 | SOUTHBENDTRIBUNE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Big Red, a baby red panda, at Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend. Big Red is getting his permanent name through a local donation contest. PROVIDED BY POTAWATOMI ZOO

Zoo has three potential names for red panda cub

Jessica Velez
South Bend Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Potawatomi Zoo has issued a call for the community to help name a male red panda cub before Sept. 18.

Given the nickname Big Red from birth, the red panda cub was born June 13 alongside four siblings to the zoo's red pandas, Raya and E.J. Originally, the goal was to let Raya raise the cubs, but because she had a rare large litter size, the cubs were born very small and several failed to live longer than a couple days. Big Red is the only survivor of the litter.

After nearly three months of being cared for by the zoo's staff and receiving 24-hour care, Big Red is now ready for a permanent name. To participate, individuals can donate at least \$5 on the zoo's website through the end of Sept. 17.

Participants will have three names to choose from:

- Clifford (like the big red dog)
- Russet (like the potato)
- Pabu (a Tibetan word that means "son" but also colloquially means "puff-ball")

The name that raises the most money will become the cub's new name, and the winning name will be announced on Sept. 19, also known as International Red Panda Day, according to a press release from the zoo.

The proceeds from the contest will be donated to Red Panda SAFE, a framework for conservation through

the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. SAFE programs, according to a press release from the zoo, are a framework for conservation initiatives and include supporting partner organizations that strive to save animals and their habitats in the wild.

Red pandas are considered endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. It is estimated that there are fewer than 10,000 wild red pandas, according to the press release, and their population is decreasing because of threats that include habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and poaching.

All online donors will also be entered into a drawing to win a red panda plush and two passes to Potawatomi Zoo, chosen at random.

Email South Bend Tribune business reporter Jessica Velez at jvelez@usatodayco.com.

Voorde remembered as dedicated, a true friend

Rayleigh Deaton
South Bend Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sean Coleman said he first met John Voorde as a 6-year-old in the early 1960s when he saw Voorde painting the crosswalk at the corner of Diamond and Vassar avenues as an employee of the South Bend Street Department.

And Coleman, a former St. Joseph County treasurer and South Bend Common Council member, said he and Voorde shared many more memories over the years.

"John was my friend," Coleman said. "We had a strong personal bond. And part of it was historical, part of it was from our interaction together as city council members and then generally as public servants. But it did go beyond just those confines. I truly enjoyed John's company."

Voorde, 81, died Wednesday, Sept. 2, following complications from post-polio syndrome, according to The Tribune's reporting partner WNDU. A mainstay in South Bend politics, he held numerous positions within the city over his career, including city clerk, Portage Township assessor and at-large South Bend Common Council member.

Voorde also was the son of Edward "Babe" Voorde, who served as South Bend mayor from 1956 to 1960.

Kaniewski Funeral Homes is handling the funeral arrangements, with service details and an obituary forthcoming.

Longtime Tribune reporter Jack Colwell said John Voorde always described himself as a "maverick" when it came to his politics.

"He would do things his own way, sometimes taking stances that were unpopular," Colwell said. "But he

See VOORDE, Page 3A

TASTE

100 years of spaghetti and meatballs at Sunny Italy Café

Jessica Velez
South Bend Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sunny Italy Café has always had a special place in Josephine "Sis" Bamber Elliott's heart.

It's where she absorbed her mother's recipes. It's where she has fond memories of spending time with her siblings, who gave her the memorable nickname she still carries today in the small apartment above the restaurant.

It's her family's legacy — one she chose to nurture and uplift.

In 1997, Sis made a choice. Her father had died a year before, and, Sis said, she didn't want her mother to have to continue running Sunny Italy without him.

"My choice was to continue their legacy. ... It feels great to carry on the tradition, but it also carries a lot of pressure with it," Sis said. "A lot of pressure be-

Sunny Italy Café

- **What:** 100-year-old Italian restaurant
- **Where:** 601 N. Niles Ave. South Bend
- **Hours:** 4:30 to 9 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; closed Sundays through Wednesdays
- **Prices:** \$4-\$30
- **For more information:** Call 574-232-9620 or visit sunnyitalycafe.com.

cause I just don't want to mess up. ... When you see people that work hard and created something, you don't want to take it over and bring it down."

Sis wears the pressure with pride, and in her care, Sunny Italy reached a

See RESTAURANT, Page 2A

Sunny Italy Café on Aug. 27, in South Bend. JESSICA VELEZ/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

Get the latest news, sports and more

See today's top headlines, local breaking news, area scores, things to do and subscriber exclusives at southbendtribune.com.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by scanning this code on your mobile device, or go to southbendtribune.com/enewspaper.

Volume 154 | No. 156
To subscribe:
800-220-7378
©2026 **\$2.49**