

# Ferndale Record

SINCE 1885 **DECEMBER 11, 2019** FERNDALÉ, WASHINGTON • \$1

## Position 4 truly a toss-up

Shuey wins coin toss for seat on Ferndale City Council, Position 4

By Brent Lindquist  
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FERNDALÉ — One uncounted ballot led to a nailbiter of a finish to the race for Position 4 on the Ferndale City Council last week.

Challenger Paul Shuey edged out incumbent Teresa N. Taylor not by a vote, but by a flip. They both garnered 1,928 votes from Ferndale residents, but in the end it was the toss of a coin that decided the race.

Following the Whatcom County Auditor's final ballot count on on Nov. 26, Taylor sat just one vote behind Shuey, 1,927 votes to 1,928. This triggered a hand recount of the race, and that recount yielded one extra vote for Taylor.

Deputy Auditor Diana Bradrick said she and her colleagues cannot determine precisely what happened, but their best guess is rather simple: two ballots ran through the counting machine simultaneously, and the machine counted them as one.

Bradrick and her colleagues checked and re-checked the number of ballots in the group in question, and their count of 120 ballots did not match the generated report of 119. They also counted the ballot envelopes and found the same discrepancy.

"We counted the original green envelopes that the ballots came in," Bradrick said. "We had 120 envelopes. There should have been 120 ballots. At some point, only 119 of them got scanned."

Rud Browne, Whatcom County Council member, and Royce Buckingham, civil attorney for Whatcom County, flipped the

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County civil attorney Royce Buckingham flips a commemorative coin from Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman to determine the outcome of the tied race for Ferndale City Council Position 4. (Brent Lindquist/Ferndale Record)

## Council considering utility rate options next week

Two water, two utility structure options to be presented by city staff, with recommendations for each

By Brent Lindquist  
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FERNDALÉ — A summer water utility discount could return to Ferndale next year, if the Ferndale City Council chooses to reinstate it at next week's meeting.

City staff has presented the council with two options for sewer rates and two options for water rates, with recommendations provided to the council on each.

In Option A on the water rate side, water users are charged based on how many hundred cubic feet (ccf) of water they use, with increments of zero to 10, 11 to 15, 16 to 30 and more than 31 ccf. Irrigation users are subject to a different four-tiered structure, while commercial and multifamily residence users will pay the same flat rate per ccf of water no matter what tier they fall into. The commercial and multifamily residence structures are identical between options A and B.

Ferndale Finance Director Sirke Salminen noted that, for example, a resident using 30 ccf per bill would not be charged at the 16 to 30 level for his or her entire

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## Ferndale gets a laundromat

Ferndale Laundry grand opening set for Saturday

By Brent Lindquist  
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FERNDALÉ — When Justin Pike's washing machine kicked the bucket, he spent hours and hours driving to and from Lynden to do his laundry.

He and his business partner Mike Cox recently opened Ferndale Laundry, the only laundromat in Ferndale.

"It just seemed like a good idea," Cox said. "It seemed like a need."

Cox and Pike, who both hail from the world of law enforcement, had been discussing the idea for a few years when they finally decided to move forward with it when an acquaintance helped them find the perfect location at 5619 Third Avenue.

They worked with Speed Queen, a sales and services partner that specializes in distribution for businesses like laundromats. Speed Queen helped them conceptualize the whole business, Cox said.

Cox said their favorite part of running the business is meeting and working with customers.

"The customer service is my favorite part," Cox said. "You get to meet a lot of people from

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## 'Tis the season



Santa Claus visited the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce's Community Tree Lighting Friday, with the Mount Baker Toppers welcoming him with music. See more photos of the event on page A7. (Brent Lindquist/Ferndale Record)



**Weather**  
Thursday 49°/44°  
Friday 48°/40°  
Saturday 46°/34°  
Sunday 44°/37°

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Election

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coin. Because the race for Sumas City Council Position 3 was also tied, Browne and Buckingham chose to do a separate coin toss for each race. They drew “heads” or “tails,” and each was assigned to a candidate based on his or her position on the ballot.

Browne did the first toss, which landed tails. Sumas candidate Deborah Morgan was named the winner of Position 3 over incumbent Todd Daniels. Both smiling, Morgan and Daniels shook hands, and then it was time for the Ferndale toss. Taylor was not available to witness the toss in person, but many supporters and members of her family were there to see the outcome, and Shuey was in the room with his own family and supporters as well.

Buckingham did the honors for the Ferndale race. His flip yielded heads, and Shuey was declared the winner.

“It’s exciting,” he said afterwards. “It’s a lot more responsibility, and hopefully I can make the citizens proud and do what I was elected to do: to make a difference for Ferndale.”



Paul Shuey claps after winning the coin toss for Ferndale City Council Position 4. Shuey and incumbent Teresa N. Taylor were tied following a hand recount, and the race fell to a coin toss. This also happened in the late 1990s in the race for Ferndale mayor. (Brent Lindquist/Ferndale Record)

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Police investigating flyers downtown

FERNDALE — More flyers for the white supremacist group Patriot Front appeared around downtown Ferndale recently, and the Ferndale Police Department is investigating.

City communications officer Riley Sweeney replied to a social media post about the flyers that similar flyers had appeared in Mount Ver-

non over the past weekend.

“The Ferndale Police have an active investigation around this activity,” Sweeney replied to the post.

According to the anti-defamation league, “Patriot Front is a white supremacist group whose members maintain that their ancestors conquered America and bequeathed it to them alone. They define themselves as American fascists or American nationalists who are focused on preserving America's identity as a European-American identity.”

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