

Kleckley, Garrett battle for Senate 10

By RENEE ORTIZ
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Senate District 10, which covers Greenwood, Saluda and Lexington counties, has two candidates running for the seat. Republican incumbent Billy Garrett declined to interview with the Index-Journal about his campaign.

His opponent, Francie Kleckley, is running as a Democrat for the seat. She worked for nearly 37 years in the federal government, specifically the IRS. She was retired and spent her time as a community servant. She expresses her frustration with watching freedoms being taken away at the national lev-

el and a lack of response from her representatives, which is what led her to run for the seat. "We've done enough polling. There are enough surveys out there that tell us that he (Garrett) is not representing the issues, interests and concerns of the actual voters. ... See SENATE 10, page 6A



FRANCIE KLECKLEY



BILLY GARRETT

SC House candidates lay out their priorities

By RENEE ORTIZ
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South Carolina House District 13 seat is open for this election and two candidates once again face each other to fill it. Greenwood Republican incumbent John McCravy said he hopes to continue his seven-year tenure. "It's been the honor of my life to do this, and I appreciate the opportunity to do it. I feel like we've made an impact on our state policy for the good," McCravy said.

McCravy highlighted his accomplishments in his tenure, including tax reductions, fully funding schools, raising law enforcement salaries and providing free technical school tuition. He also discussed the \$40 million funding for the Conestee Dam, expected to start construction early in 2025. He plans to continue with that and the dam that is currently closed in Ware Shoals. Should he win the seat, McCravy he See HOUSE, page 4A



BILL KIMLER



JOHN MCCRAVY

Two seek Greenwood County Council seat

By RENEE ORTIZ
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County Council Chairman Chuck Moates is not seeking reelection, leaving the District 4 seat open.

Democratic nominee Ken Robinson said he hopes to run as a moderate voice on council. He emphasized



KEN ROBINSON



CATHY MILLER

for inner-city children and substandard housing.

"I believe if you create an environment that's conducive to a healthy living environment, you get some good results," Robinson said.

When asked about the Capital Project Sales Tax, he criticized the reliance on CPST for major projects, advocating for city and county responsibility in providing basic services.

"It should be that CPST is for ancillary things. That's not for major things. These are things that the city and county are required to take care of its citizens. It's capital sales tax for other projects, not core projects. It's our responsibility to take care of the citizens," Robinson said.

Cathy Miller is running as the Republican candidate for the seat. She is a member of the Greenwood County Republican Women.

Miller stressed her qualifications over party affiliation.

Miller said she hopes to use her 40 years of experience in manufacturing, nonprofits, government sectors and her roles in interim leadership, to assist her in leading District 4.

"This is my third interim role. It was first the interim county treasurer, then

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JUST iMAGINE



Kayleigh Cribb works with LEGOs at the ZF Transmissions booth.

Kids and parents came to Uptown Greenwood on Saturday for the annual iMAGINE Lakelands STEAM Festival. The festival aims to spark kids' interest in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics careers through interactive experiences. Look for a story and more photos on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY GREG K. DEAL | INDEX-JOURNAL



Lee Chadwick steers a robot at the Due West Robotics booth.

Four in race for two seats on Greenwood City Council

By RENEE ORTIZ
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There are two open seats for voters to fill on Greenwood City Council.

Niki Hutto, the incumbent for Ward 1, discussed her 22-year tenure and her reasons for running again.

"I feel that in this transitional period that experience, knowledge base, the fact that I've been an effective (council member), and for many years, is an asset to this community. That's why I believe I should be reelected. ... What I bring to the table is the experience of how to move forward and how to budget," Hutto said. Before running for council, Hutto worked as a zoning commissioner. She plans to use her expertise and years on council to expand the city.

"First, by doing the new future land use. We're going to be doing a new comprehensive plan. I want to be intricately involved in that plan, because it is our road map of what we would like to look like in the future," she said.

Hutto emphasized a need for smart growth in Greenwood and she plans to accomplish this by collaborating with CPW, county council and other organizations.

This collaboration will also help establish a clear disaster preparedness plan for the city, including communication channels and designated emergency shelters. Hutto also plans to work collaboratively to combat homelessness.

DeWannda Sayles has not sought political office, is running against Hutto. She's lived in Greenwood for 32 years. Sayles said she decided to run after being a vocal resident during council meetings. "I care about people, and I give my best in everything that I do out to the seat. I'll bring understanding and



NIKI HUTTO

Race for CPW
Gilbert, Stuckey battle for commissioner seat. 6C



DEWANNDA SAYLES

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