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To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
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Subject: Credit Monitoring Info, Ethics, and Roland Smith -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- September 2 to September 29, 2014

Credit Monitoring Info, Ethics, and Roland Smith -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- September 2 to September 29, 2014

I hope that you and your family enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to cooler weather. The State Senate is out of session until January 2015. One of my goals as your state senator is that you find this update helpful and informative. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for reading and for allowing me to serve our District!

Credit Monitoring Update -- SC Taxpayers

Year 2012 Cyber Attack Update : Currently, the State is providing identity protection services for South Carolina taxpayers affected by the October 2012 data breach of state computers if the taxpayer enrolls for the services. The State has a one year contract with CSID and has entered a contract for a second year with three remaining optional renewal terms of one year each. The current contract services with CSID began October 24, 2013. The General Assembly appropriated a second year of protection in the budget in June, so the second year of protection services will begin October 24, 2014. Those taxpayers that enrolled with the free services through CSID during the first year will be automatically enrolled for the second year, and those who are not enrolled but wish to do so may enroll at any time. (See below for how to do that.) Services for participants in the forthcoming second year of service will end on October 31, 2015.

How do I enroll? : Individual taxpayers, their dependents, and businesses who filed electronic tax returns between 1998 and 2012 are eligible for the services offered through CSID and may enroll online at: www.scidprotection.com or by calling: 855-880-2743.

Who is CSID? : CSID is a Texas based company which not only offers credit

monitoring, but also provides identify monitoring solutions along with full service identity theft restoration services.

What If I Purchase My Own Credit and/or Identity Protection? : If you choose to purchase your own protection service, you can deduct a portion of that cost from your state income taxes. The deduction is based on the actual cost of services, but is capped at \$300 for an individual taxpayer and \$1,000 for a joint return or a return claiming dependents.

State Government News

Representative Roland Smith : Governor Haley will be in Aiken County tomorrow at 11 am to present Rep. Roland Smith with the Order of the Palmetto for his 32 years of public service including the last 26 years representing House District 84 in Aiken County. Rep. Smith has been chairman of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation for 18 years. He is an outstanding public servant whose legacy of servant leadership will serve as a model for years to come. He will retire in November at the conclusion of his term. To see the news story about tomorrow's presentation, go [here](#).

Ethics Reform : The indictment earlier this month of House Speaker Bobby Harrell will make ethics reform a top priority when the legislature returns in January. As I wrote in previous columns this year, I support independent oversight, income source disclosure, and other measures to strengthen our ethics law. The last major ethics law changes in our state were in 1991. If the public pushes for ethics reform in 2015, then my belief is that it will happen, but there has to be a grassroots push for it across the state. I welcome your feedback on this or any other issue.

Ethics – Source of Income Disclosure : The ethics legislation in the General Assembly which failed in June would have required legislators to disclose the sources of their income. Although that requirement did not become law, I completed a source of income disclosure for 2013 which can be seen [here](#).

DSS Oversight Hearings Continue : The DSS Oversight Subcommittee that I chair continues to work with additional hearings in the coming weeks. The subcommittee is charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly on how best to improve child protective services and foster care services in our state. A Legislative Audit Council report on DSS Child Protective Services is coming soon. I welcome your feedback and suggestions.

South Carolina Receives High Rankings from Business Consultants: South Carolina has earned a #3 ranking among the top states for doing business according to Area Development magazine's recent survey of site consultants. South Carolina was noted for its right to work laws; low unionization rate; technical college programs; and supportive state and local governments. To see the full article, go [here](#).

DEW Unemployment Trust Fund Update : The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) announced on Sept. 16 that it made a second early voluntary

payment of \$126 Million to the federal government for the agency's unemployment trust fund loan, saving the state \$660,000 in interest. To pay unemployment benefits, the state borrowed almost \$977 Million from the federal government between December 2008 and April 2011. To date, \$706 Million has been paid back. The state is scheduled to repay the entire amount by the end of 2015.

Planning for 2015 Legislative Session : The 2015 legislative session convenes on the second Tuesday in January. I appreciate input from constituents on the issues facing our state and area including road and bridge infrastructure; ethics reform; tax reform; spending reform; K-12 education; the costs of higher education; health care; economic development; job growth; and the underfunded liabilities in our state's health insurance program for state retirees. Your input is welcome on any issue important to you. Please email me back; contact me by phone; or speak with me in person.

News of Local Interest

Animal Welfare Hearings : A panel of the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee is holding hearings around the state to receive public input on issues related to domestic animals in South Carolina. The Aiken meeting will be tonight at 7 pm at Aiken Technical College in the Amphitheater. For more information, call Gene Hogan at (803) 212-6232.

Hitchcock Parkway -- Aiken : The City of Aiken announced on Friday that local funding is short by \$8 Million so the City Council decided to forego a proposed four lane expansion and focus on corridor improvements. To see the news story, go [here](#).

Good News – USC Aiken : USC Aiken is ranked #1 among top public regional colleges in the South in the 2015 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* guide, "America's Best Colleges" for its 17th consecutive year. Ever since *U.S. News & World Report* created this ranking category seventeen years ago, the University has been ranked in the top three public regional colleges every year and has been ranked first ten times: 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015. Congratulations to the students, faculty, staff, and supporters of USC Aiken!

MTU Receives Recognition : Local manufacturer MTU received the State Chamber of Commerce Award for small/medium manufacturer of the year. To the story, go [here](#). Congratulations to MTU and its team of employees!

SRS National Lab: We are fortunate to have the National Lab at SRS. It is a national asset. Recently, our legislative delegation wrote a letter to the National Lab Review Commission in support of the lab. To see the letter, go [here](#).

Volunteer in Local Schools: If you would like to help with educating our children, consider volunteering in our local schools. To learn more, go [here](#). Thank you to the Aiken Downtown Rotary Club for putting together this list of opportunities.

Upcoming Festivals in District

Jackson Hook and Cook Festival : The Town of Jackson will host the Hook and Cook Festival on October 10 and 11. To learn more, go [here](#).

New Ellenton Atomic City Festival : The Town of New Ellenton will host the Atomic City Festival on October 17 and 18. To learn more, go [here](#) or call 439-8515.

North Augusta Fall Festival : On Saturday, October 25, North Augusta will have its Fall Festival and the Jack O Lantern 5K. To learn more about the run, go [here](#). To learn about the festival, go [here](#).

Other News of Interest

Faith Magazine article : A recent issue of *Faith Magazine* has an article about my public service and faith which can be seen [here](#).

Prostate Cancer: September is prostate cancer awareness month. Early diagnosis is critical for successful treatment. The PSA blood test can be used to detect prostate cancer much earlier than it can be detected without screening. All men are welcome to have a free PSA blood test at the Cancer Care Institute of Carolina in Aiken. For more information, call the Institute at [641-7850](tel:641-7850).

Special Needs Children – Help for Parents and Caregivers : Recently, the SC Bar developed a handbook for parents of special needs children. An online version of the handbook is available [here](#).

Teens and Texting : Texting while driving amongst younger drivers remains a problem. The State of South Carolina's anti-texting law goes into effect on December 7. Between June 9 and December 6, law enforcement may issue warning tickets. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

Frequency of Email Updates : Because the legislature is out of session, my legislative updates will not be sent as frequently as they are from January to July. However, I will strive to provide at least a couple of updates per month through December.

Constituent Information

Legislative Email Updates : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): bill@billhixon.com
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): bill@taylorscheuse.com
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): dwells29801@gmail.com

Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information : Congressman Wilson represents

all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [608-9747](tel:608-9747).

Speaking with Groups Around the District : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

Facebook: I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please “like” the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

Tom Young’s Website : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go [here](#).

Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan : South Carolina’s 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go [here](#).

Donate Life: You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or [here](#).

Child Passenger Safety : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go [here](#). The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Request a Flag : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com. Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

State House Tours : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling [\(803\) 734-2430](tel:803-734-2430) or by going [here](#). If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you. The State House is open on Saturdays for guided and unguided tours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

South Carolina Tourism : To learn more about tourist attractions and tourism opportunities in South Carolina, go [here](#).

Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, go [here](#).

Aiken County Tourism : To learn more about tourism options in Aiken County, go [here](#).

Email Updates : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

Road Issues : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or Aiken County at [642-1532](tel:642-1532) to report the problem. If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young
649-0000 (o)
215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate

This message was sent to katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov from:

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