

From: Sen. Tom Young <tom@tomyoungforsenate.com>
To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
Date: 11/21/2016 6:25:06 PM
Subject: Thanksgiving, Unemployment Rate, and Small Business Saturday -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- November 8 to November 21, 2016

Thanksgiving, Unemployment Rate, and Small Business Saturday -- Update from Senator Tom Young -- November 8 to November 21, 2016

Happy Thanksgiving! : Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family! We have so much for which to be thankful. I hope that you and your family enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please remember our troops and their families this Thanksgiving. Annual Thanksgiving events in Aiken County include the following:

Thursday, November 24

One Table

Time: 11am – 1pm

Place: The Alley in Aiken

This Thanksgiving Dinner is open to the entire community. For more information, please visit [here](#).

Thursday, November 24

Blessing of the Hounds

Time: 11 am

Place: Hitchcock Woods Memorial Gate

This annual event opens the hunt season in Hitchcock Woods. Park by the Aiken County Historical Museum and enter the woods from South Boundary for a 10 minute walk to Memorial Gate. Call [803.643.DRAG](tel:803.643.DRAG) for more information.

Former President Reagan's Thanksgiving Day Message : Many in our district may be interested in this link to former President Reagan's 1985 Thanksgiving Day message about our nation and the blessings of liberty. To see it, go [here](#).

Small Business Saturday -- November 26 : This coming Saturday is "Small Business Saturday" which is a nationwide initiative to encourage shopping at local, independently owned businesses on one of the busiest shopping weekends of the year. To learn more about this, go [here](#). Please support our local small businesses

when you shop this Holiday season and during the coming year.

State Government News

State's Unemployment Rate is Down : South Carolina's unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest level since March 2001 at 4.7%. To learn more, go [here](#).

State Cuts Unemployment Insurance Tax Rate: Earlier this month, the SC Department of Employment and Workforce announced that the state's unemployment tax rate was being cut an average of 10.1% from last year's rate. Since 2013, the rate has been cut by an average of 30.9%. The reductions have been made possible by the state's strong economy, a low unemployment rate, lowered benefit payouts, and changes to eligibility requirements. To learn more, go [here](#).

Child Identify Theft : Recently, the SC Dept. of Consumer Affairs issued a warning and a new brochure about child identify theft. To learn more, go [here](#).

Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee: In June, the Governor signed into law legislation that the General Assembly passed placing a 3 year moratorium on the ability of unregulated private for profit petroleum pipeline companies to use eminent domain to take private property. Companion legislation also established a Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee to look at South Carolina's laws in this area many of which have not been updated since the early 1950's. The Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee met for the first time last week. The Committee will meet again on November 30 at 10 am. Senator Shane Massey, Rep. Bill Hixon, and I are all members of the Committee. Links to the Committee's agendas and other materials can be seen [here](#).

Planning for the 2017 Legislative Session : The 2017 legislative session begins on the second Tuesday in January. I appreciate input from constituents on the issues facing our state and area. Your input is welcome on any issue important to you. Please email me back or contact me by phone or in person.

DHEC -- Zika Virus : South Carolina DHEC has a Zika virus information page on its website. As of November 21, 2016, there are 54 confirmed travel-associated cases of Zika virus in South Carolina. To learn more at the DHEC information page, go [here](#). To see the toolkit and outreach materials from DHEC, go [here](#).

Local District News

Whiskey Road Corridor Survey: If you live in or near our Senate District and travel on Whiskey Road, please consider sharing your thoughts with this 5 minute survey on Whiskey Road which can be seen [here](#).

Immunization Schedule for Adults and Children : Staying on top of immunizations is important to your health. To see the recommended immunization schedule for adults, go [here](#). To see the recommended immunization schedule for children, go [here](#).

Hitchcock Woods : To learn more about the Hitchcock Woods and events, see its annual report go [here](#).

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month : November is pancreatic cancer awareness month. In Aiken County, Brenda's Angels' mission is to support pancreatic cancer patients and their families through financial assistance, to fund pancreatic cancer research, and to promote pancreatic cancer education in the CSRA. For more information on how to support Brenda's Angels during the month of November, go [here](#). To learn more, go [here](#).

Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer : Major Dwight Bradham is the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He and his team are doing a great job for our veterans in Aiken County! He can be reached at [642-1545](tel:642-1545) by phone and at dbradham@aikencountysc.gov by email. If you have any veteran-related issue, please call the office for assistance. You can follow that office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AikenVA and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/VA_Aiken.

Congressman Wilson's Local Office -- Veteran Assistance : Congressman Wilson can also assist veterans. The local number to the Aiken County office is [\(803\) 642-6416](tel:803-642-6416).

Walter Edgar's Journal: If you are interested in the history, culture, and arts of South Carolina, consider listening to Walter Edgar's Journal which airs at noon on Fridays and Sundays at 4 p.m. on South Carolina public radio. To learn more, go [here](#).

SRS Heritage Foundation : To see the latest and past newsletters for the SRS Heritage Foundation, go [here](#). Many residents in Senate District 24 are current or former employees of companies located at SRS.

SRS Public Tours: Public tours of SRS are available. They are from 12:30 to 4:30 and are first come, first served basis with up to 50 people per tour. Participants must be at least 18 years old and U.S. citizens. To register for a tour, visit www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm or call 803-952-9472. More information can be obtained about SRS and the tour program at www.srs.gov.

Habitat for Humanity : To learn more about Aiken County Habitat for Humanity and their latest news, go [here](#).

Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary : This 3,250 acre property is located 5 miles Northwest of Jackson in Aiken County along the Savannah River. The property includes numerous Carolina bays, walking trails, and a wide variety of wildlife including 217 bird species such as Bald Eagles, Wood Storks, Cooper's Hawks, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. In addition, a 120 acre area is on the National Register of Historic Sites as the location of George Galphin's Trading post operated from 1750 until the end of the Revolutionary War. To learn more and how to visit, go [here](#).

Cardiac Arrest : Recently, a friend sent me a link to this [website](#) with a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation. Please take a few minutes to

review it.

SC Help – Primary Residence Foreclosure Avoidance Assistance : Several Aiken County residents have received assistance under a federal program instituted in 2011 in several states including South Carolina providing one time assistance to homeowners who risk foreclosure. The program loans up to \$36,000 in one time aid to homeowners who have fallen behind on mortgage payments for a variety of reasons. Acceptable causes include: unemployment, underemployment, a sharp reduction in self-employment income, a divorce, death of a spouse, unexpected medical bills from a catastrophic illness or injury, or damages stemming from the October 2015 floods. The home involved must be the applicant's primary residence and there is a cap on the size of the original mortgage loan amount. The money is collected back from the homeowner after the homeowner is back on his or her feet. To learn more or to apply, go online [here](#) or call [1-855-435-7472](tel:1-855-435-7472).

Foster Parent Recruitment : In March, Governor Haley, DSS officials, and foster parents launched a new statewide effort to find more families willing to foster parents for children in need. To learn more, go [here](#).

FTC website: The Federal Trade Commission website has helpful information for consumers on a number of topics. To see it, go [here](#).

Aiken County Legislative Delegation Office : The local legislative delegation office is staffed by the delegation secretary Jeannie Cadden in the Aiken County Government Building on University Parkway. Ms. Cadden works on both Aiken County and Edgefield County legislative and constituent matters. One of the services provided by our local delegation office is the processing of paperwork associated with becoming a notary public. If you need help with this or other matters, let me know by responding to this email or call Jeannie in the delegation office at [642-1694](tel:642-1694).

Campaign Information

Donate to Tom Young for Senate : Several people have asked about donating to my State Senate Campaign Fund. If you have not done so and would like to donate to my Senate campaign fund, please go [here](#). Donations can be accepted in any amount up to \$1,000.00 per donor per election cycle. Thank you!

Facebook : If you are on Facebook, I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. During the week, I post information from the Senate or elsewhere around the District, State, and County. If you are interested, please "like" the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

Other Topics of Interest

Faith Magazine article : A *Faith Magazine* article about my public service and faith can be seen [here](#).

SRS Retiree Association – Retiree Resource Center Help : The SRS Retiree Association has established a SRS Retiree Resource Center in Aiken. To learn more about what services this office can provide, go [here](#).

Research Charities in South Carolina : Charitable donors may research organizations registered in South Carolina by visiting the Secretary of State's website [here](#). You may learn a charity's total revenue, program expenses, total expenses, net assets, and fundraiser costs. You can also call the Division of Public Charities at [1-888-CHARITI \(242-7484\)](tel:1-888-CHARITI) for more information.

Unclaimed Property -- Money for You? : The State Treasurer's Office maintains a link for residents to search for unclaimed property. Examples of unclaimed property include dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks (including paychecks), unclaimed insurance proceeds, forgotten utility deposits, uncashed dividend checks and unexchanged shares of stock. Some local residents have recently found unclaimed money belonging to them on this website. To learn more, go [here](#).

Medication Assistance Program : The LSCOG (Lower Savannah Council of Governments) partnering with local physicians and the United Way, has an ongoing free program to assist lower income Aiken County residents with obtaining medications. Participation is generally limited to those families with no prescription insurance and total household income of less than 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. To learn more, call [1-866-845-1550](tel:1-866-845-1550), ext. 6 or go [here](#) and scroll down to Medication Assistance Program.

Nonprofits and Raffles : Since last April, nonprofits may legally conduct raffles in South Carolina to raise funds for their charitable purposes. For the new law, the Secretary of State created a frequently asked questions list which can be seen [here](#). If you have more questions, please call the Charities Division of the Secretary of State at [\(803\) 734-1790](tel:803-734-1790).

Cardiac Arrest : For a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation, go to www.heartrescuenow.com.

Special Needs Children – Help for Parents and Caregivers : The South Carolina 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 went into effect on December 7, 2014. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

Constituent Information

Legislative Email Updates : Locally, two 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

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 [642-6416](tel:642-6416).

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.

State Government Resources : Several online resources are available to you for learning more about our State Government. These resources include the following websites which can be accessed as follows: General Assembly's website -- go [here](#); Executive Budget Office -- go [here](#); State Library -- go [here](#); Legislative Audit Council -- go [here](#); Governor's Office -- go [here](#); and State Fiscal Transparency information, go [here](#).

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).

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](#).

SC BBQ Trail: According to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, our state is the birthplace of barbecue in the United States and is the only state that offers all four official barbecue sauces. To see the official map with more than 200 restaurant listings, go [here](#). Another helpful site can be seen [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. You may also report the repair request online [here](#). 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
