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**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 11/23/2015 3:17:37 PM  
**Subject:** Thanksgiving, Ports, and Small Business Saturday -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- November 11 to November 23, 2015

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**Thanksgiving, Ports, and Small Business Saturday – Update from November 11 to November 23, 2015**

**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 28

**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 26

**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 asked me to include the 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 28** : 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.

**Congratulations to Mayor Fred Cavanaugh!** : Mayor Fred Cavanaugh officially retires today as Aiken's Mayor after 24 years as mayor and a total of 30 years in local municipal government. Yesterday, our legislative delegation presented him with several recognitions including the Order of the Silver Crescent from the Governor. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Congratulations to Kevin Kisner!** : Yesterday, Aiken's Kevin Kisner won his first PGA Tour tournament. To learn more, go [here](#).

### **State Government News**

**Increase in Projected General Fund Revenues** : Two weeks ago, the State's Board of Economic Advisers projected a revenue increase for next fiscal year of over \$1.2 Billion. My understanding is that some of the projected money is already obligated by existing state law for public education. I support returning some to the state's taxpayers and using some for the state's road and bridge infrastructure needs especially following last month's flood. Other competing interests for portions of the money are expected to be funding the Local Government Fund at the current statutory formula amount; paying for capital improvements on state college and university campuses; and paying for salary increases for state employees. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Employers Save on Unemployment Tax** : The state's federal unemployment tax rates for 2016 will drop 5.4% from the past year. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Withholding Taxes -- More in Checks** : Beginning in January 2017, South Carolina plans to reduce state withholdings from pay checks meaning more money for people working in our state. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Economic Impact -- State Ports:** The State Ports Authority released a report last week showing the enormous economic impact that the Ports of Charleston and Georgetown the Upstate Inland Port at Greer have on the state. To see the story, go [here](#).

**Shared Port** : Georgia and South Carolina reached an agreement last week to share a port terminal in Jasper County on the Savannah River. To learn more, go [here](#).

**2015 Flood -- Governor Requests Aid for Farmers:** Earlier today, Governor Haley requested assistance from United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack in expediting crop insurance payments to South Carolina farmers whose crops were damaged by statewide flooding. To see her letter, go [here](#).

**2015 Flood -- One SC Fund:** Last Monday, Governor Haley announced the creation of One SC Fund, a fundraising effort that will help South Carolinians who are recovering from unprecedented flooding continue the rebuilding process. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Planning for the 2016 Legislative Session** : The 2016 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.

**Aiken County Legislative Delegation** : 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).

### Local News

**Wreaths Across America** : Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath laying ceremonies in December at Arlington National Cemetery and in hundreds of veterans' cemeteries in all 50 states. Locally, two ceremonies are planned on Saturday, December 12: (1) North Augusta at noon at Wade Hampton Veterans' Park and (2) Aiken at 11 am at Southlawn Cemetery on Whiskey Road. To learn more about the North Augusta event, go [here](#). For more information on the Aiken event, go [here](#).

**USC Aiken Chancellor's Report** : USC Aiken Chancellor Dr. Sandra Jordan's October newsletter with her State of the University address can be seen [here](#).

**Congratulations to Marge Glauser!** : Aiken's Marge Glasuer recently was named AARP Caregiver of the Year for South Carolina. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Retired State Rep. Marshall Cain** : Aiken's Marshall Cain represented House District 81 for several years between 1968 and 1980. An excellent recent article about him can be seen by going [here](#).

**School District Entry Plan Findings** : Earlier this month, the Aiken County School District released the new Superintendent's Entry Plan Findings after his first 100 days on the job. It can be seen [here](#). Feedback on it can be sent to [mpiccolino@acpsd.net](mailto:mpiccolino@acpsd.net).

**Habitat for Humanity:** Aiken County Habitat for Humanity is building its 100th home in the county. To learn more and if you can volunteer, 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](#).

**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.

## Other News of Interest

**Faith Magazine article** : A *Faith Magazine* has an article about my public service and faith which 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](#).

**Nonprofits and Raffles** : Since April 4, 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:8037341790).

**Cardiac Arrest** : For a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation, go to [www.heartrescuenow.com](http://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, 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](mailto:bill@billhixon.com)
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): [bill@taylorscheuse.com](mailto:bill@taylorscheuse.com)
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): [dwells29801@gmail.com](mailto: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 [642-6416](tel:6426416).

**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).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov) from:

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