



**WAGT-CD, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA
QUARTERLY FCC COMMUNITY PROBLEMS
ASCERTAINMENT RULE 1,526(A) 9**

**Current Ascertainment and List
Of Community Problems, Needs and Concerns
October 1 through December 31, 2017
Prepared January 10, 2018**

1. CRIME AND SAFETY

Mom's Everyday, 8:55AM

Monday, November 13: Guest: Tracy McElhaney, I-Care. Described this non-profit organization's purpose in helping victims of human trafficking. 2:09 minutes

Monday, October 16, News 26 @ 7:00PM: RCSO GETTING READY TO UNVEIL NEW SUBSTATION NEAR THE RIVERWALK. Guests: Angela Jackson and Jennifer Reese. It was July 4, 2016; after the boom of fireworks came the sound of gunshots. For some, that night still tarnishes the Riverwalk even for those who weren't there to hear the gunshots. In the days following the shooting, city leaders made promises they'd make a number of safety changes. More than a year later, one of them is about to come to fruition: a new Sheriff's Office Substation in the former Fort Discovery Building. Deputies from two zones will use the substation which will allow them to respond to calls faster. City leaders also promised 15 security cameras the five entrance points. That won't happen until the City gets the \$143,000 for them. The patrolling isn't going to be any different but will get deputies close to their zones and respond to calls quickly. 2:00 minutes

Tuesday, October 24, News 26 @ 7:00PM: HUNTING FOR LEADS TO MISSING PERSONS DURING HUNTING SEASON. Guest: Jeff Billips, Georgia DNR Game Warden. Deer hunting season is a busy one; lots of hunters; lots of activity. In Richmond and Burke Counties, they're looking a prize buck in corners of wildlife most don't go until this time of year. However, sometimes they stumble upon the closure families and investigators have been searching for. Over the years, there have been several occasions where hunters made reports of finding remains that were missing persons or victims of crime. For example, New Year's Eve, two young boys in Jenkins County found a 23-year-old who was reported missing from Statesboro nine months before. It makes sense when the victim is in a remote area and only when a hunter or landowner make their way onto the property they are found. Hundreds of law enforcement personnel have search for two missing people in our area on the ground and in the air for months; both presumed dead and in the area. With more hunting boots on the ground in remote cracks of the CSRA comes renewed hope for investigators. 2:00 minutes

Wednesday, November 8, News 26 @ 6:00PM. AUGUSTA FIREFIGHTERS BEGIN TRAINING FOR OPIOID OVERDOSES. Guests: Chief Chris James, Augusta Fire Department/EMA Director and Bill

Fennoy, Augusta Commissioner District 1. The number of overdose calls the Fire Department is responding to is shocking; a 100% increase from this time last year. They've been paying attention to what's going on in the media and started evaluating how many overdoses they are responding to. There were no calls in November last year and, after only seven days into the month this year, there were three. It's got to the point where every Fire Department needs to be prepared to respond to an overdose call. Every fire truck and first responder has Narcan on board to help. Narcan blocks the effects of opioids and can reverse an overdose. Now, all Augusta first responders are trained on how to use it. The Fire Department's medical official provided new operating procedures for administering Narcan and then have those responders trained on using Narcan before they put it on the trucks. 1:45 minutes

Wednesday, November 8, News 26 @ 11:00PM: AUGUSTA LAWYERS LIST STEPS TO TAKE IF YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION IS STOLEN. Guest: Zane Leiden, Leiden & Leiden. The new crime rings are all about stealing data and credit card accounts. If your info is ever breached, the best bet is either a fraud alert or a security freeze. A fraud alert lets your lender know some type of unauthorized payment was made but should only be used if just your credit card number was stolen. It's as easy as contacting one of the three main credit reporting agencies. What the fraud alert does is notifies active lenders and potential lenders there has been some type of improper or unauthorized activity. If more information is at a risk such as phone numbers and addresses, it's time for a security freeze. It immediately stops any spending on the account until the credit lender investigates for any unauthorized purchases or transfers. Some people may say a security freeze is a bit of an overkill but it makes your information a tougher target for somebody to see or try to use. Credit software has become better in terms of finding threats and detecting red flags. There is a growing responsibility on the third parties to make sure you're protecting your data and, if they don't do it properly, they can be found negligent. Some debt charges from identity thefts may not show up right away; so check your checking your credit score every four months can help find any potential charges. Also, don't throw away those free credit cards or bank statements, make sure you shred them. 2:20 minutes

Tuesday, December 26, News 26 @ 11:00PM: RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TACKLES BUDGET CUTS AND LOOKS FOR LONG-TERM SUPPORT. Guest: Richard Roundtree, Richmond County Sheriff. 2018 is bringing some uncertainty for the Sheriff's Office. The sheriff made some compromises included a \$900,000 cut to his operating budget to get at least some deputies a pay raise. They wanted to have more trained CSO's, community safety officers downtown to man our camera systems, without that operating budget, that can't be done. The cut means his department can't grow to meet the needs of a growing Augusta. He says the city needs to invest in his department; not just his budget but also finding more money to get all of his deputies meaningful pay raises. They hope going into the next budget cycle the administration can find the funds to invest in the sheriff's office so they can look at these long-term things. The Sheriff's Department needs to be a top priority for city leaders. They're a team player for the county and sometimes you have to look at what the priorities are. As far as service goes, when the calls come, deputies will respond; budget cuts or not, they're committed to your safety. 2:00 minutes

2 FAMILY/YOUTH/SENIORS

Mom's Everyday, 8:55AM

Tuesday, October 17: Guest: Kelly Kitchens, Claeys McElroy McGruder and Kitchens. Advised on how to begin preparing to file for divorce. 2:29 minutes

Tuesday, October 24: Guest: Latoya Hardman, Family Promise of Augusta. Explained their upcoming gold fundraiser to raise money for the non-profit to continue their mission of helping homeless families. 2:01 minutes

Wednesday, October 25: Guest: Sharon Norsworthy, Director Brookdale North Augusta. Discussed Brookdale's Road Home Program that ensures a successful transition to the living center. 2:20 minutes

Thursday, November 9: Guest: Sharon Norsworthy, Director Brookdale North Augusta. Detailed the future residents' program that allows those making the transition to the Center have peace of mind. 2:28 minutes

Monday, November 27: Guest: Kari Viola-Brooke, Child Advocacy Director for Child Enrichment, Inn. Discussed the grand opening of their new center in Thomson, Georgia which will better serve children in need. 2:13 minutes

Monday, December 11: Guest: Sharon Norsworthy, Brookdale North Augusta. Detailed the future residents' program that allows them to make the transition to the center have peace of mind. 2:28 minutes

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3. EDUCATION

Mom's Everyday, 8:55A

Friday, October 27: Guest: Phil Wahl, Executive Director Augusta Area, Security Federal Bank. Detailed their new initiative called Students 2 Work that gives high school students the opportunity to receive real-world job experience to help them determine what they may want to do after high school. 2:28 minutes

Wednesday, November 8: Guest: Phil Wahl, Executive Director Augusta Area Security Federal Bank. Explained the internship program, Students 2 Work, and how businesses in the area can become involved in the program. 2:12 minutes

Wednesday, December 13: Guest: Phil Wahl, Executive Director Augusta Area. Explained the internship program Students 2Work and how businesses in the area can become involved in the program. 2:28 minutes

Thursday, October 12, News 12 This Morning: FIRST RESPONDERS TEACHING STUDENTS FIRE SAFETY. It's National Fire Prevention Week and We're On Your Side with ways to keep your children safe. Guests: Jay Florence, Georgia Deputy Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner and Christopher James, Augusta Fire Chief. This week fire officials, fire responders and school administrators want kids to learn the importance of fire safety and want these lessons to stick with the students year round. On Wednesday, October 11, there was a state-wide fire drill at elementary, middle and high schools in Georgia. Schools participate in fire drills once a month. They teach kids the plan and routine: Line up, exit the building quietly and meet at a designated spot away from the school. Children and parents should have a plan that does beyond the school. It needs to translate to the home. If a fire does happen, parents and kids need to know what route they need to take when they need to get out of the house. The important thing is to always have a plan. If your children sleep on the second floor, you should have a ladder they can use to climb out the window. There should be a designated meeting spot that the whole family knows. Smoke alarms should be taken seriously, too. 2:15 minutes

Thursday, October 12, News 26 @ 7:00PM: CLASSROOM BEING BUILT ON PRESERVED LAND IN NORTH AUGUSTA. Guest: Hazel Cook, Executive Director of the Central Savannah River Land Trust. If you drive on Martintown Road, there's a chance you might miss the acres of preserved land right off Exit 1 in North Augusta. Look closely and you can see crews are out there working to build an outdoor classroom. It sits on 252 acres of preserved land called the Greystone Preserve. The classroom will include event space, organic gardens and miles of scenic trails. In the future, Greystone may also be the site for the Central Savannah River Land Trust's main office, one of several projects the conservation group is working on. The overall vision is to create a cross-county trail system while preserving hundreds of acres of land. The property can be used for just about anything from a Boy Scout or Girl Scout group, art classes, teaching about wild game and hunting and all kinds of sports. The classroom should be finished by Thanksgiving of this year.

Shortly after, they're going to work on parking, bathrooms and getting the garden ready. They're still working on raising funds for the part of the project. 2:00 minutes

Tuesday, October 24, News 26 @ 7:00PM: RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM STILL FACING CHALLENGES AS COLUMBIA COUNTY EXPANDS. Guest: Dr. Sid Chapman, President Georgia Association of Educators. It's still a rough road ahead for Richmond County to get their students to graduation and some cuts at the top aren't helping, The Georgia Department of Education's College and Career Ready Performance Index shows Richmond County Schools were outperformed by 96% of the state's other school districts in 2016 receiving an "F" grade in the process; while, Columbia County outperformed 88% of the state's other districts for a "B" grade. On the local level, you have property taxes and SPLOST. But, if you're in area where there's a high poverty rate, schools aren't funded as well and you have people going from county to county. Military families play a role, too. Over the past five years, 19% of military students have left Richmond County Schools while Columbia County saw a 25% increase. Money from the top is making things tough for state school districts like Richmond County dealing with a high poverty rate. 2:00 minutes

Wednesday, October 24, NBC 26 This Morning: Guests: Tunisia Williams. Counselor Riverside Middle School and students Lawson Harper and Akshaia Byrapaka. One local school is taking on the issue of bullying and all that comes with it as part of a campaign started in 2006, PACERS National Bullying Prevention Week. Every October, schools and businesses across the country participate in it - including Riverside Middle School in Columbia County. A specific group of students puts the week-long event together to teach the rest of their peers about bullying, the consequences of it and how to stop it. There is an anti-bullying these for each day. They started wearing blue to show unity and the effect of bullying; Tuesday they posted words of encouragement around the school and Thursday students will receive Hawaiian leis to "lay off" bullying. Speaking with the group of students who put the event together, many of them who witnessed bullying or event victim of it, say this week highlights a problem that most people deny and teaches them how to stop it instead of ignoring it. Students were also taught the different types of bullying; one that is a lot is cyber bullying. This type of bullying is stressed even more because of children having cell phones, laptops, iPads, etc., and they don't get the severity of posting comments on their page. Teaching students about the issue upfront has made these students very willing to say something when they see it happen. 2:10 minutes

Wednesday, November 1, News 26 @ 11:00PM. COLUMBIA COUNTY KEEPS UP WITH CYBER DEMAND BY INTEGRATING HANDS ON CURRICULUM. Guest: Dr. Jeff Carney, Associate Superintendent Columbia County Schools, Brenda Balliet, Accelerate Math Teacher, Riverside Middle and Alicia Stephenson, Instructional Specialist, Stallings Island Middle & Lakeside Middle. It's been a huge push for Columbia County Schools to add more cyber courses and activities throughout the classroom and part of the way they're doing that is by training the ones who are teaching your kids. They hope the first time is the charm; starting cyber education as early as middle school to hook hundreds of kids to go into the cyber industry. It's so hands-on and they learn so much just by testing and trying out different circuits to see what works and doesn't work. All this training is through NICERC, a training company that focuses on finding a way to put STEM and cyber in the classroom across all subjects. Lakeside Middle School is the first school in Columbia County that's STEM certified. This was a two day training session for both high and middle schools but the district say over the course of this summer they hope to add more of these training sessions for a much longer period of time. 2:10 minutes

Monday, November 6, News 26 @ 11:00PM: AIKEN COUNTY SCHOOLS PROPOSE REZONING. Guest: King Lawrence, Director of Administrative Services, Aiken County School District. He biggest think is the westward migration of students over the last eight to ten years. Most of the schools in area 2 are either at or over capacity. Right now, 15% of Aiken County students go to school in areas they aren't zoned for. The Board says overcrowding in areas like Midland Valley and North Augusta is a big problem with some schools over 100% capacity. That's where they see industry coming in, residential development and the future of cyber. One of the Board's big ideas taking some students from Levealle McCampbell Middle School District and moving them to schools like Warrentville or Jefferson but that would requiring expanding those schools. The grand total for all the proposed work across the county - building schools, renovating other, and juggling zone lines - is \$90 million; money they don't have. To start work by next year, the Board

talked about borrowing the \$90 million but that would mean some tax increases – between \$20 and\$#30 annually on a home worth \$100,000. These are things they will let the community decide; then' they'll make the decision. 2:00 minutes

4. **RELIGION**

Mom's Everyday, 8:55AM

Monday, October 9: Guest: Victoria Wilson, Bring It Home by Victoria. Described the upcoming faith retreat for women and moms. 1:43 minutes

5. **HEALTH**

Mom's Everyday, 8:55AM

Wednesday, October 4: Guest: Dr. Jim Sherman, New Skin Medical. Discussed a few laser treatments that help eliminate spots on the skin from skin exposure. 1:53 minutes

Friday, October 6: Guest: Dr. Alicia Vinyard, Breast Oncologist. Shared her breast cancer survival story and the unique perspective she is able to give her patients. 2:04 minutes

Wednesday, October 11: Guest: Dr. Kshan Govind, Aiken Ophthalmology. Explained the importance of getting a general eye exam especially for those over age 40. 2:20 minutes

Monday, October 30: Guest: Kathy Crist, University Wound Care. Discussed the concerns surrounding diabetic wound and how she educates people on how to prevent these wounds. 2:30 minutes

Wednesday, November 1: Guest: Teresa Lilly, Director Women's Life Care Center, Aiken Regional Hospital. Outlines what the Center is like and what they provide women before, during and after childbirth. 2:26 minutes

Thursday, November 2: Guest: Briana Tindall, Vein Specialists of Augusta. Explained what spider veins are; what causes them; and how to treat them. 2:11 minutes

Monday, November 6: Guest: Briana Tindall, Vein Care Specialists of Augusta. Explained what spider vein are; what causes them; and how to treat them. 2:11 minutes

Friday, November 10: Guest: Scarlet Woodward, Labor & Delivery Nurse Aiken Regional Hospital. Explained her role at the Medical Center and how she aids expectant mothers from conception to their birth of their child. 1:56 minutes

Wednesday, November 15: Guest: Dr. Bill Sherman, New Skin Medical. Explained what sun exposure does to skin and how their new laser procedure can eliminate some of the sunspot effects. 1:54 minutes

Wednesday, November 22: Guest: Briana Tindall, Vein Care Specialists of Augusta. Described what is involved with a typical consultation with Vein Specialists. 2:23 minutes

Tuesday, November 28: Guest: Dr. Kishand Govind, Aiken Opthomology. Described the importance of having regular eye exams especially for people over 40. 2:20 minutes

Wednesday, November 29: Guest: Alice Branton, Vitamin D is the Key. Detailed the importance of getting proper amounts of Vitamin D which she explains further in her book – Vitamin Key is the Key. 2:15 minutes

Tuesday, December 5: Guest: Alice Branton, Vitamin D is the Key. Detailed the importance of getting proper amounts of Vitamin D which she explains further in her book – Vitamin Key is the Key. 2:15 minutes

Wednesday, December 6: Guest: Dr. Bill Sherman, New Skin Medical. Explained what sun exposure does to skin and how their new laser procedure can eliminate some of the sunspot effects. 1:54 minutes

Friday, December 14: Guest: Scarlet Woodward, Labor & Delivery Nurse Aiken Regional Hospital. Explained her role at the Medical Center and how she aids expectant mothers from conception to their birth of their child. 1:56 minutes

Monday, December 18: Guest: Briana Tindall, Vein Care Specialists of Augusta. Discussed what to expect when receiving an ultrasound to address vein problems. 2:32 minutes

Thursday, December 21: Guest: Dr. Bill Sherman, New Skin Medical. Explained what sun exposure does to skin and how their new laser procedure can eliminate some of these sun spot effects. 1:53 minutes

Wednesday, October 18, News 26 This Morning: EXCLUSIVE LOOK AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S NEW MOBILE MAMMOGRAM BUS. Guest: Bianca Saxon, Lead Mammographer. University Hospital will be revealing the brand new Mobile Mammogram Bus at the Miracle Walk. University Hospital has been providing mammograms on another bus since 2002. This new bus provides mammograms and heart screenings for women who may not be able to get to a hospital. The Mammography Mobile has traveled to 18 counties in 2016; counties like Jenkins, Warrenton, Screven, just to name a few. Some of the areas visited are very rural and people may not be able to have screenings. In 15 years, the previous bus has screened 59,000 women and 268 were diagnosed with breast cancer. That ratio might seem small but it's almost 300 lives saved by the Mobile Mammography. It's important that women take the time to get a mammogram and take the opportunity to get screened when the mobile unit is in their area. 2:00 minutes

Wednesday, November 8, News 26 This Morning: APP HELPS TRACK CHILD'S PROGRESS AND GROWTH. Guest: Dr. Carol Thompson-Tarver, Chair of Pediatrics at Doctors Hospital. A new app from the Center for Disease Control gives parents specific information they should look out for as their child grows starting from two months to five-years old. The CDC Milestone Tracker app provides tips and activities to help kids learn and grow. Parents can document a child's monthly summary to share with their pediatrician during visits. The CDC says this app could help parents identify developmental delays and disabilities, such as Autism, sooner than later. It gives parents what they need to know at home and helps them decide when they should go to the doctor. You can download the free app for your smartphone and get to tracking. 45 seconds

6. RECREATIONAL/CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Mom's Everyday, 8:55AM

Tuesday, October 10: Guest: Susan Doughtie, Social Worker, Georgia Cancer Center. Discussed the Third Annual Wacky Wig Walk to raise money for all types of cancer research. 2:06 minutes

Thursday, October 12: Guest: Regina Brejda, President Columbia County Arts. Discussed Art in the Park, a free community event including live music and a side walk chalk contest. 2:15 minutes

Wednesday, October 18: Guest: Cynthia South, Western Carolina State Fair. Described a few of the promotions for the Fair as well as what will be at the Fair this year. 2:19 minutes

Friday, October 20: Guest: Theresa Rousseau, Executive Direct, Arts and Heritage Center of North Augusta. Discussed the various exhibits on display at the Center during October. 1:40 minutes

Friday, November 3: Guest: Theresa Rousseau, Executive Director North Augusta Arts & Heritage Center. Discussed the Center's upcoming exhibits and events for November. 2:10 minutes

Thursday, November 16: Guest: Theresa Rousseau, Executive Director North Augusta Arts & Heritage Center. Discussed the remainder of events at the Center throughout November as well as previewed December events. 1:52 minutes

Friday, November 17: Guest: Beth Francis. Detailed the 30th Annual North Augusta Tour of Homes and all the activities involved. 2:18 minutes

Friday, December 8: Guest: Theresa Rousseau, Executive Director North Augusta Arts & Heritage Center. Discussed the events and exhibits at the Center during the month of December. 1:53 minutes

Tuesday, October 17, News 26 This Morning: ROBOTS TAKING OVER THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE MUSEUM. Guest: Walt Joseph, Executive Director of the SRS Heritage Foundation. The Savannah River Site Museum in Aiken is hosting its Robotics Week and hoping to inspire the next generation of engineers with nuclear science and robotics. This is the Museums first event since opening earlier this year. They have a few robots that worked at the plant on display. They have a robot named SIMON that was used to scan buildings for radiation. It found 22 spots of radiation on one of its first checks. Also, they also have one robot at the Museum that competed in the show "Battle Bouts." The event gives children the opportunity to interact with hands on display of robotics. The site has a lot of retirees now and needs to replenish them with young people who have the same interests and training so we can keep those jobs at home. 1:45 minutes

Tuesday, October 25, News 26 This Morning: UNIQUE FALL TRADITION LINES STREETS OF WILLISTON. Guests: Kenny Cook, Williston Town Administrator; Diane Wilson, President of the Ivy Garden Club and Peg Southerland, Mastermind of Event. You know it's fall in Williston when the temperature starts dropping; the leaves start falling and the Gourd People line up along Church Street. A lot of exciting things are about to happen in town. The yearly visitors have been popping up in the fall in this quiet little town since 2013. The displays has made some drivers passing through take a second look. The first display was set up five years ago when Peg was growing gourds at home and tried to figure out what to do with them. She figured out what to do with them and Gourd People are a new fall tradition in this small town. Last year, they set up a display with a significantly smaller amount of Gourd People and the neighbors were disappointed and let the Garden Club know. This year they're back in full force. 1:45 minutes

7. **ECONOMY**

Mom's Everyday, 8:55AM

Wednesday, December 27, News 26 @ 7:00PM: YEAR IN REVIEW FOR COLUMBIA, ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING AREAS. Guest: Ron Cross, Chairman Columbia County Commission. 2017 was a tremendous exciting year. A lot of good things happened and it set the state for 2018. If you live there, you know the drill, new schools, crazy traffic and lots of new development. In January came one of the largest rezoning in Columbia County to make room for more students. The school system is a great contributor – they've got an excellent school system. February brought a celebration with a promise of Columbia County's first full-service hospital. In April it was the groundbreaking for the first building of the

Plaza they hope is the first step to creating a downtown Evans. A growing county comes with a growing number of challenges. Traffic is one of the forefront things on their mind. Traffic is running on Riverwatch Parkway, a project stagnant for 15 years. After one major project ends, a handful more are beginning next ears including work on Fury's Ferry and Flowing Wells Road. August of this year also brought two new school and more commercial development, too. Topping o0ut the year was the award for building the Performing Arts Center. Anywhere you go in the county something's happening; so take a good look, it will look completely difference in no time at all. 2:00 minutes

Thursday, December 21, News 26 @ 7:00PM: COMPLETION OF PLANT VOGTLE COULD MEAN HUNDREDS OF JOB POSSIBILITIES. Guest: Greg Carswell, Waynesboro Mayor. It's a sigh of relief and great news simply because of the jobs we have out there and the job it's going to create when Units 3 and4 come online. Nearly 6,000 people are working on reactors three and four but when they are done, several more jobs will be available. At the end of the construction, there's going to be a creation of at least 800 jobs, permanent jobs that are going to be out there and going to be another possibility of people right here from our area that will be able to work as well as people from around the world. When Plant Vogtle was first built, it brought new development – schools, businesses and the hospital which all have grown. This is what's going to happen again as construction continues. 1:45 minutes

8. **TRAFFIC**

9. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

10. **ENVIRONMENT**

Mom's Everyday, 8:55AM

Friday, October 20: Guest: Dena Thomas, Advanced Services. Explained the dangers of fire ants; what to look for when fire ants appear and how to eliminate them around your home. 2:17 minutes

Friday, October 20: Guest: Dena Thomas, Advanced Services. Explained the dangers of fire ants; what to look for when fire ants appear and how to eliminate them around your home. 2:17 minutes

Wednesday, October 18, News 26 @ 11:00PM: COLUMBIA COUNTY UPDATES ITS FLOOD MAPS AFFECTING MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE. Guests: Haydn Blaize, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Steve Cassell, Director Columbia County Engineering Division. People living in Unincorporated Columbia County, the City of Harlem and the City of Grovetown could see some changes to their neighborhoods with new changes to the flood maps. In the new maps, more than 500 people are being moved out of the floodplain but 77 could now be living in one. Flooding may not be a problem right now but for some homes, it's always a risk and that's where these new maps come in. In these new maps, almost 100 people could find themselves lining in a floodplain. This is going to qualify them for flood insurance if they weren't before. Hundreds of others are being moved out. Flood insurance is required by mortgage companies. In terms of the special flood hazard area, your lender, if you have a federally backed mortgage, requires you to have flood insurance. These maps will not go into effect until the spring of 2019. If you want to see whether or not you are in the floodplain on the new maps, you can go to Georgiadfirm.com and type in your address. If you are in the floodplain and don't think you should be, you can send an appeal to the Georgia DNR. 2:00 minutes

Through ascertainment interviews with community leaders and the general public, the following list represents the most prevalent problems, needs and concerns of the Augusta community. While the first five are in order of importance, the remaining are in no particular order:

1. Crime/Safety
2. Family/Youth/Seniors
3. Education
4. Religion
5. Health
6. Recreational/Cultural Activities
7. Economy
8. Traffic
9. Local Government
10. Environment

2017 4th QUARTER MEET THE PRESS TOPICS

Chuck Todd is NBC News Political Director and the moderator of "Meet the Press," the flagship Sunday Morning public affairs program and longest-running broadcast in television history.

"Meet the Press" is seen on the NBC Television Network from 9-10 a.m. ET in most markets. In New York City and Washington D.C., the broadcast is seen from 10:30-11:30 a.m. ET.

The program re-airs on MSNBC Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT and again at 2 a.m. ET/11 p.m. PT and 4 a.m. ET/1 a.m. PT Monday. At these times, "Meet The Press" will also air on SIRIUS channel 90 and XM channel 120.

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MTP: MNUCHIN ON TRUMP'S PUERTO RICO TWEETS: 'WHEN THE PRESIDENT GETS ATTACKED, HE ATTACKS BACK ... THE MAYOR'S COMMENTS WERE UNFAIR'

Treasury Sec. Mnuchin: "I don't" regret requests for government aircraft travel

PLUS: Mnuchin: Tax reform plan will "pay down the deficit by \$1 trillion"

SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE: Corker on North Korea: "If we don't ramp up the diplomatic side, it's possible that we end up cornered"

Corker on tax reform: "I am not going to be for it" if it adds to the deficit

OCT. 1, 2017 – This morning in a live interview on "Meet the Press," Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin defended the government's response to the crisis in Puerto Rico as well as President Trump's tweets about the island and the mayor of San Juan, telling moderator Chuck Todd: "When the president gets attacked, he attacks back, and I think the mayor's comments were unfair given what the federal government has done."

Mnuchin also told Todd that the administration's tax reform proposal's "objective is not to give an income tax cut to the wealthy." "With our plan, we actually pay down the deficit by \$1 trillion," he added.

"The American public deserved to know how their money is being spent," commented Mnuchin on Health and Human Services Sec. Tom Price's resignation after the use of government-funded private jet travel. When asked if he regrets his own government aircraft requests, Mnuchin said, "I don't." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, exclusively spoke with Todd about North Korea: "Tillerson understands that every intelligence agency we have says there's no amount of economic pressure you can put on North Korea to get them to stop this program because they view this as their survival."

"If we don't ramp up the diplomatic side, it's possible that we end up cornered," he added.

On the administration's tax reform proposal, Corker shared: "If it looks like to me, Chuck, we're adding one penny to the deficit, I am not going to be for it." The senator also stood by his criticism of the president following the

Charlottesville rally violence, telling Todd that he and the president “spent five minutes on this topic” when they met last week. [Watch the full interview.](#)

Ta-Nehisi Coates, author of “We Were Eight Years in Power,” discussed his book, telling Todd that he “would argue that white supremacy is an indispensable factor” to the Trump presidency. [Watch the full interview.](#)

The New York Times’ **David Brooks**, AEI’s **Danielle Pletka**, MSNBC’s **Joy Reid** and author **Charlie Sykes** analyzed the week in politics on the roundtable, including the president’s tweets on Puerto Rico. [Watch the conversation.](#)

Read the full transcript of this morning’s “Meet the Press” on [MeetThePress.com](#).

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, sign up for the “First Read” newsletter, and subscribe to the “1947: The Meet The Press Podcast” for on-demand interviews.

MTP: BUDGET CHIEF: TRUMP CALL TO SCHUMER IS MESSAGE TO GOP TO ‘KEEP YOUR PROMISES’; ON GOVT. JETS FROM DC TO NYC, ‘YOU’RE NOT GOING TO SEE IT AGAIN’

PLUS: Mulvaney on Corker: “It’s going to be fun to work with him ... not running for re-election ... unleashes him to do whatever -- and say whatever -- he wants to say”

Feinstein on re-election: “I’m ready for a good fight”

SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE: Scalise on tax reform: “All the rates are going to go down”

OCT. 8, 2017 – Budget chief **Mick Mulvaney** told “Meet the Press” moderator Chuck Todd this morning that Senate Republicans’ takeaway from President Trump’s health care call with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) should be to “keep your promises. You promised to repeal and replace. Do it.”

“If the question is: Is the president interested in working with Democrats to repeal and replace? That would be our language, the answer is yes,” said Mulvaney. “The Democrats may use a different word for that.” The OMB director also addressed the use of government planes to fly from Washington to New York, telling Todd: “You’re not going to see it again.”

[Watch the full interview](#), including Mulvaney on a “much more orderly and aligned West Wing” under Chief of Staff Kelly and the acceptance of “short-term increases in deficits in order to get the type of tax reform that we need.”

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) also joined the program, hinting to Todd that when it comes to a possible re-election run, she’s “ready for a good fight.” She commented on this past week’s Las Vegas shooting: “America is a gun-happy country, and I think there are many of us in growing numbers that don’t want a gun-happy country. ... I have seen over the decades is a growth of substantial improper use of weapons.” [In an interview excerpt released ahead of air](#), Feinstein also addressed possible campaign contributions from Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, who is accused of sexual harassment: ““I don’t know that I’ve received any. I’ll certainly take a look, and then I’ll make a decision. ... That’s the best I can do for you today.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

Todd also spoke with **House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.)** for his first Sunday interview since the Las Vegas shooting. [In an interview excerpt released on MSNBC’s “MTP Daily” Thursday](#), Scalise reacted to possible “bump stock” legislation: “A week ago ... most people didn’t know what a bump stock was. So to think that we’re now all experts and know how to write some, you know, panacea law, it’s fallacy. Let’s focus on the facts.” He also

addressed the administration's tax reform plan: "All the rates are going to go down. The death tax will be completely repealed." Additional excerpts released ahead of air include the representative on [Hurricane Nate](#), [on tax reform at the ballot](#), [Trump's deal with the Democrats](#) and a [possible purging of GOP lawmakers unresponsive of the administration](#). [Watch the full interview.](#)

NBC News' **Carol Lee** and **Kristen Welker**, MSNBC's **Hugh Hewitt** and The Washington Post's **Eugene Robinson** joined the show's roundtable, [where Welker broke the news that Bannon is planning a "full-on assault on the Republican establishment"](#) beginning this week, targeting all incumbents except for Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) in batches of three.

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on [MeetThePress.com](#).

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, sign up for the ["First Read"](#) newsletter, and subscribe to the ["1947: The Meet The Press Podcast"](#) for on-demand interviews.

MTP: UN AMB. HALEY: 'GOING TO SEE US STAY IN THE DEAL,' 'WHOLE REASON WE'RE LOOKING AT THIS IRAN AGREEMENT IS BECAUSE OF NORTH KOREA'

PLUS: "I am glad to be living in New York ... I don't want to be near the drama"

ALSO: "If there's a problem, that's really a question for Secretary Tillerson"

EXCLUSIVE: Ohio Gov. Kasich doesn't rule out 2020 presidential run

OCT. 15, 2017 – **UN Ambassador Nikki Haley** addressed the Iran nuclear deal this morning, telling "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd that "right now, you're going to see us stay in the deal" and "the whole reason we're looking at this Iran agreement is because of North Korea ... What we're saying now with Iran is don't let it become the next North Korea."

Haley also spoke about the palace intrigue surrounding the White House: "I am glad to be living in New York ... I don't want to be near the drama and I don't want to be near the gossip." She added that President Trump has full confidence in Secretary of State Tillerson and that "if there's a problem, that's really a question for Secretary Tillerson. That's not anything for the rest of us to answer." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who exclusively joined the broadcast this morning, told Todd that the Trump administration's Friday announcement to end health care subsidies is "outrageous": "These were payments to insurance companies to make sure that hardworking Americans, who don't make a lot of money, can have their copayments taken care of. It's a subsidy to do that."

The governor also didn't rule out running for president in 2020: "I don't know what I'm going to do tomorrow. You know, I will tell you this. The other day, with all the chaos going on, my wife said to me one morning, she said, "You know, John, I wish you were president." That's how I knew the country was in trouble." [Watch the full interview.](#)

The Washington Post's **Dan Balz**, NBC News' **Kasie Hunt**, Demos' **Heather McGhee** and The Wall Street Journal's **Kimberley Strassel** joined the program this morning for insight and analysis, including conversations on [Congress' relationship with the White House](#) and [if Hollywood will change its culture because of the Weinstein accusations](#).

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on [MeetThePress.com](#).

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, sign up for the [“First Read” newsletter](#), and subscribe to the [“1947: The Meet The Press Podcast”](#) for on-demand interviews.

MTP EXCLUSIVES: GRAHAM: FALLEN SOLDIERS WERE IN NIGER ‘TO HELP ALLIES,’ SCHUMER: ‘WE HAVE ALL 48 DEMOCRATS’ ON HEALTH CARE DEAL

EXCLUSIVE: Graham Says Trump Administration Has “Blind Spot on Russia I Still Can’t Figure Out”

EXCLUSIVE: Schumer: “No, I Did Not” Know We Had a Thousand Troops in Niger

ONLY ON MEET THE PRESS: Four Female Senators Say #MeToo, Reveal Stories of Sexual Harassment

OCT. 22, 2017 – In an exclusive interview this morning on “Meet the Press,” **Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.)** told moderator Chuck Todd that he “got a little insight” on [why the fallen four American soldiers were in Niger](#): “I can say this to the families: they were there to defend America. They were there to help allies. They were there to prevent another platform to attack America and our allies.”

“We don’t know exactly where we’re at in the world militarily and what we’re doing. So John McCain is going to try to create a new system to make sure that we can answer the question why were we there, we’ll know how many soldiers are there, and if somebody gets killed there, that we won’t find out about it in the paper,” the senator continued.

Graham also addressed [the administration not implementing Russian sanctions](#): “The Trump administration is slow when it comes to Russia. They have a blind spot on Russia I still can’t figure out. But I can tell you what happened in ‘16.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) also exclusively joined the broadcast, echoing Graham: “No, I did not” know that we had a thousand troops in Niger. He [spoke on the health care deal in Congress right now](#), telling Todd: “This is a good compromise. It took months to work out. It has a majority. It has 60 senators supporting it. We have all 48 Democrats, 12 Republicans. I would urge Senator McConnell to put it on the floor immediately, this week. It will pass and it will pass by a large number of votes.”

Schumer also criticized President Trump: “This presidency doesn’t get anything done. All he does is spend his time tweeting and degrading his so-called enemies. That doesn’t work and demeans the presidency.” [Watch the full interview.](#)

In the wake of the Harvey Weinstein allegations, “Meet the Press” reached out to every female U.S. senator, asking if any had #MeToo stories they were comfortable sharing with our viewers. **Senators Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.)** shared their stories – a powerful example of the prevalence of sexual harassment. [Watch them share their experiences.](#)

Robert Costa of The Washington Post, **Helene Cooper** and **Tom Friedman** of The New York Times, and **Danielle Pletka** of the American Enterprise Institute joined this morning’s roundtable for insight and analysis, including [a discussion on the week’s civility.](#)

Read the full transcript of this morning’s “Meet the Press” on [MeetThePress.com](#).

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, sign up for the [“First Read” newsletter](#), and subscribe to the [“1947: The Meet The Press Podcast”](#) for on-demand interviews.

MTP EXCLUSIVE: PORTMAN SAYS TRUMP IS 'TOO DEFENSIVE' ON RUSSIA PROBE, ON MUELLER: 'LET HIM GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT'

SUNDAY EXCLUSIVE: McCaskill on Trump: "Anxious to work with him ... My job's not to fight him"

NEW: Trump's Approval Ratings Drops to Lowest Level Yet in NBC News/WSJ Poll

OCTOBER 29, 2017 – In an exclusive live interview, **Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio)** told "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd that President Trump's comments on the Russia investigation this week were "too defensive."

"I hope Congress will encourage that the Senate Intelligence Committee ... complete their work," said Portman. "And that we support this investigation that the Department of Justice has now appointed this special prosecutor. Let's let him get to the bottom of it."

He also addressed the factions inside the Republican Party right now, telling Todd: "I don't think it's new," as well as how the tax reform proposal will "actually be reducing the deficit." Watch the full Portman interview.

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) also exclusively joined the broadcast, and she addressed what she has in common with the president: "We have enough in common that he signed a number of my bills into law already. ... We certainly agree on infrastructure." She added: "I am anxious to work with him on those things. ... My job's not to fight him." The Missouri senator also discussed leadership within the Democratic Party: "We have so many people that are trying to position themselves to run for president I think it's hard to say who is the leader." Watch the full interview.

New NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll numbers released this morning on the broadcast reveal that the president's job approval rating is at 38 percent, his lowest since taking office and down five points since September. Read more from the new poll.

After President Trump declared the nation's opioid crisis a "health emergency" earlier this week, **Huntington, W.V. Fire Chief Jan Rader** spoke with Todd about her daily battle against the epidemic: "It's been years since we had a day where we didn't have an overdose." Rader's fight is chronicled in "Heroin(e)," a Netflix original film and an official selection of *The Meet the Press Film Festival in Collaboration with the American Film Institute (AFI)*. Watch the interview.

Republican strategist **Al Cardenas**, POLITICO's **Eliana Johnson**, MSNBC's **Chris Matthews** and The Cook Political Report's **Amy Walter** joined this morning's roundtable for analysis on the week in politics, including a discussion on the divide within the GOP.

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on MeetThePress.com.

MTP: WARNER SAYS PAPAPOULOS ON SENATE INTEL 'SCREEN FOR A LONG TIME,' EXCLUSIVE: DNC CHAIR CALLS BRAZILE'S ACCOUNT 'LUDICROUS'

Vice Chair of Senate Intel Says Committee Has "Actually Interviewed Literally a Couple Hundred Individuals"

EXCLUSIVE: Mueller Has Enough Evidence to Bring Charges in Flynn Investigation, Sources Tell NBC News

Sen. Lankford on Flynn Jr.'s Role: "We're Going to Try to Ask and Find Out"

PLUS: "Meet the Press" Turns 70 in Special Anniversary Edition

NOVEMBER 5, 2017 – **Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.)**, vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd that George Papadopoulos, former Trump campaign adviser who pled guilty in Mueller's Russia probe, "had been on our screen for a long time."

Though he wouldn't address if the committee has interviewed Papadopoulos, Warner told Todd that they have "actually interviewed literally a couple hundred individuals -- many times without actually even the knowledge of the press. We've worked with a lot of these individuals cooperatively. We've got more to do."

On the Steele dossier, Warner shared: "I wish Mr. Steele would sit down and talk to our committee. We've reached out. He's refused to do so, so far." Watch the full interview.

NBC News exclusively reported this morning that federal investigators have gathered enough evidence to bring charges in their investigation of Michael Flynn, Trump's former national security adviser, and his son Michael Flynn Jr. as part of the probe into Russia's intervention in the 2016 election, according to multiple sources familiar with the investigation. Read more.

Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.), who also serves on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told Todd that "we're going to try to ask and find out" the role of Mike Flynn, Jr. in the Russia investigation. When asked about the cooperativeness of the Flynn's, Lankford replied, "I'm going to leave that up to the chairman and vice chairman to be able to determine how cooperative they've been in coming in and out."

The Oklahoma senator also said the House Republicans pushing for Mueller's resignation are "not a threat at this point. Bob Mueller needs to be able to finish his investigation." Watch the full interview.

In an exclusive sit-down, **Tom Perez, chair of the National Democratic Committee**, responded to former interim DNC Chair Donna Brazile's new claim that that health concerns drove considerations to replace Hillary Clinton as the party's nominee late in the campaign: "The charge that Hillary Clinton was somewhere incapacitated is quite frankly ludicrous."

On if Brazile fell for Russian propaganda: "I don't know what Donna Brazile fell for. But all I know is under the rules and bylaws of the Democratic National Committee, she couldn't have done this. Hillary Clinton was anything but incapacitated," said Perez. Watch the exclusive interview.

"Meet the Press," the longest-running show in television history turns 70 years old tomorrow, and in this morning's special anniversary edition, Todd recounts the broadcast's interviews with 12 president, 82 heads of states and hundreds of distinguished journalists. Watch "Meet the Press" by the numbers.

The Washington Post's **Eugene Robinson**, The Wall Street Journal's **Peggy Noonan** and NBC News' **Tom Brokaw** and **Kasie Hunt** joined the show's roundtable and with a nod to the anniversary, a look back on their first appearances.

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on MeetThePress.com.

MTP EXCLUSIVE: TOOMEY CALLS FOR MOORE TO 'STEP ASIDE' IN ALA. SENATE RACE, SAYS 'STRANGE WOULD BE A STRONG CANDIDATE FOR A WRITE-IN'

PLUS: White House Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short: "If More Evidence Comes Out That Can Prove He Did This," Moore "Should Be Disqualified"

ALSO: Short: Trump "Did Insert Himself" Into Ala. Senate Race, "He Supported Luther Strange in the Primary"

EXCLUSIVE: Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D) Says Democrats "Have a Major Responsibility" in the Culture of Victim Shaming

EXCLUSIVE: Klobuchar: If Moore is Elected, Expulsion Process is "One Way We Could Do It"

NOV. 12, 2017 -- In an exclusive interview, Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) told "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd that Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore should "just step aside" after [The Washington Post](#) outlined stories of Moore's relationships with teenage girls while he was in his early 30s, including a woman who said Moore initiated a sexual encounter with her when she was 14.

"A write-in is something we should certainly explore," the Pennsylvania senator said. "I think Luther Strange would be a strong candidate for a write-in."

"When someone waits 40 years before they make an accusation, you know, that raises a question itself. So it's probably not knowable. But there seems to be enough there that it's very disturbing," Toomey added. [Watch the full interview with Toomey](#), including discussion on Russia sanctions and tax reform.

White House Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short joined Todd live on set and addressed the Alabama Senate race: "The people in Alabama know Roy Moore better than we do here in D.C., and I think we have to be very cautious, as Senator Toomey said, of allegations that are 40 years old that arise a month before election day."

On Moore, Short added: "If more evidence comes out that can prove that he did this, then sure, by all means he should be disqualified. But that's a huge if, and I think we have to allow that more facts come out." When asked if President Trump would insert himself into the Alabama Senate race, Short said: "He did insert himself. He supported Luther Strange in the primary against Roy Moore. People are forgetting that."

Short also discussed Russia's election interference: President Trump "believes that after a year of investigations of tens of millions of taxpayer dollars, there is zero evidence of any ballot being impacted by Russian interference." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), the lead sponsor of a bill instituting mandatory sexual harassment training for senators and their aides, exclusively joined the broadcast and said that the expulsion process is "one way we could do it" if Moore is elected to the Senate. When asked by Todd what responsibility "Democrats have in this culture of victim shaming that became pretty prevalent in the '90s," Klobuchar replied, "We have a major responsibility." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Charlie Cook of The Cook Political Report, David Ignatius of The Washington Post, Elise Jordan of TIME and NBC News' Kristen Welker joined the broadcast's roundtable for insight, where [Welker shared that Steve Bannon's camp is likely going to pin the Moore accusations on the Republican establishment as a "hit job."](#)

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on [MeetThePress.com](#), and attend the first-ever *Meet the Press Film Festival in Collaboration with the American Film Institute (AFI) tomorrow in Washington, D.C.*

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, sign up for the ["First Read" newsletter](#), and subscribe to the ["1947: The Meet The Press Podcast"](#) for on-demand interviews.

MTP: BUDGET DIRECTOR MULVANEY ON MOORE'S ACCUSERS: 'I BELIEVE THEY'RE CREDIBLE. I DON'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE.'

EXCLUSIVE: Comstock Calls for Moore to Step Aside: "For That Matter, Al Franken Can Go Hit the Door With Him"

EXCLUSIVE: Dingell, When Asked About Gillibrand's Clinton Comments, Says "We've Got to Focus On What The Future Is"

EXCLUSIVE: Blunt on Moore: "The Women's Story Is More Credible Than His Response"

PLUS: Blunt Says Tax Reform Will Pass the Senate, and "It Depends On Where The Votes Are" If It's With Or Without Obamacare Repeal

NOVEMBER 19, 2017 – **White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney** told "Meet the Press" guest moderator **Andrea Mitchell** that Alabama Senate Republican candidate Roy Moore's accusers are "credible." "I don't know who to believe," he added.

The budget chief also addressed the tax reform plan that passed the House this week and is now in debate in the Senate; when asked if President Trump would benefit from the tax cuts, Mulvaney replied: "I can't speak to the president's taxes. I think that was sort of litigated by the American public during the election. I will say this, listen, the president's going to pay much higher taxes on a lot of his properties, excuse me, because he has properties in high tax states." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Reps. Barbara Comstock (R-Va.) and Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) joined the broadcast in an exclusive joint interview to discuss sexual harassment on Capitol Hill and in politics. Comstock, who was the first woman in the House to call for Moore to step aside, told Mitchell that she still hopes "he will do that and do the right thing ... For that matter, Al Franken can go hit the door with him."

When asked by Mitchell if Sen. Gillibrand was wrong when she said that Clinton should have resigned during the Lewinsky scandal, Dingell replied, "I have a thousand thoughts on all this... we've got to focus on what the future is. Doing "got you" questions to people like us isn't going to solve the problem. And we've got to start moving forward." [Watch the full interview.](#)

On Moore, **Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.)** exclusively said: "The women's story was more credible than his response, that Alabama voters deserved a better choice. But they're going to have to make that decision. They know Roy Moore a whole lot better than I do. I've met him once." And in terms of President Trump's accusers, the senator said, "Whatever they had to say, people heard that. And they elected President Trump the president of the United States. So at some point I think you have to let the voters have a say here."

He also told Mitchell the tax reform bill will pass the Senate, and whether it's with or without the repeal of the Obamacare individual mandate, "it depends on where the votes are." [Watch the full interview.](#)

The Washington Post's **Bob Costa**, National Review's **Rich Lowry**, MSNBC's **Joy Reid** and The Cook Political Report's **Amy Walter** joined the program's roundtable for insight and analysis this morning, including [a discussion on this defining moment in our culture on sexual harassment](#).

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on [MeetThePress.com](#).

MTP EXCLUSIVE: PELOSI DEFENDS CONYERS AS 'AN ICON IN OUR COUNTRY,' ON IF SHE BELIEVES THE ACCUSERS: 'THAT'S FOR THE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW'

EXCLUSIVE: Pelosi: Conyers "Has Done a Great Deal to Protect Women"

EXCLUSIVE: Ohio Sen. Portman Supports Retroactively Making Capitol Hill's Sexual Harassment Settlements Public, Says "It's Outrageous That Taxpayers Are Asked to Pay"

EXCLUSIVE: Anita Hill: "Even Today, Washington Cannot Lead the Country on This Issue"

NOV. 26, 2017 – On "Meet the Press with Chuck Todd," **House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)** exclusively defended Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) following accusations of sexual harassment, saying the 27-term congressman is "an icon in our country" who "has done a great deal to protect women."

When asked if she believes Conyers' accusers, Pelosi told moderator Chuck Todd: "I don't know who they are. Do you? They have not really come forward. That's for the Ethics Committee to review."

[Watch the full interview](#), including Pelosi on the re-litigation of President Clinton's actions: "Why don't we talk, instead, about how we go forward? Nobody is proud of President Clinton's behavior at the time."

Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) told Todd that he would support retroactively making all of Capitol Hill's sexual harassment settlements public: "It's outrageous that taxpayers are asked to pay these settlements in the first place, and yeah, we should make transparent what has happened."

On the Senate's ethics investigation into accusations against Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.), Portman said: "We ought to get to all the facts just as in the case of John Conyers, as we talked about earlier, I hope we see action on that even this week." [Watch the full interview](#), including the senator's position on President Trump putting OMB Director Mulvaney as the acting chief of the Consumer Financial Protection Board.

Anita Hill, who alleged in 1991 when Clarence Thomas was nominated to the Supreme Court that he had sexually harassed her years earlier when she worked for him in various government positions, exclusively joined the broadcast this morning. Hill – now a professor at Brandeis University – shared that "26 years ago, Washington wasn't ready to lead on this issue, and I'm afraid even today Washington cannot lead the country on this issue." She added: "I can't say that I was entirely surprised with the "Me Too" allegations and the stories that came out of "Me Too," but I am just shocked that if we cannot look at those now and see that we have a widespread problem in this country." [Watch the full interview](#).

The Washington Post's **Michael Gerson**, MSNBC's **Hugh Hewitt**, Demos' **Heather McGhee** and NBC News' **Katy Tur** joined the "Meet the Press" roundtable this morning for insight and analysis, including [a discussion on sexual harassment](#), in which Tur notes: "We have a very different set of standards – very clearly – for everybody else and for politicians."

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on MeetThePress.com.

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, sign up for the "[First Read](#)" newsletter, and subscribe to the "[1947: The Meet The Press Podcast](#)" for on-demand interviews.

MTP EXCLUSIVE: FEINSTEIN: 'WE'RE BEGINNING TO SEE ... A CASE OF OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE,' 'A KIND OF INSTABILITY, UNPREDICTABILITY' IN TRUMP WHITE HOUSE

EXCLUSIVE: Collins Says Mueller Is "Making Progress," Transition Conversations "Should Not Have Been Taking Place"

EXCLUSIVE: Bossie: "It's Clear That It Is" Trump on Access Hollywood Tape

Todd Asks Bossie & Lewandowski About Flynn References in Book: "There Are Exactly Two. Did You Scrub Them Out?"

DECEMBER 3, 2017 – In an exclusive live interview, **Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)** tells "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd that "what we're beginning to see is the putting together of a case of obstruction of justice."

"We see this in the indictments, the four indictments and pleas that have just taken place, and some of the comments that are being made. I see it in the hyper-frenetic attitude of the White House: the comments every day, the continual tweets. And I see it, most importantly, in what happened with the firing of Director Comey and it is my belief that that is directly because he did not agree to lift the cloud of the Russia investigation. That's obstruction of justice," shares Feinstein.

On the Trump White House, the California senator notes: "The concern rises with the day. ... There is a kind of instability, unpredictability. It's one issue after the other." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Mueller is "making progress," said **Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine)** exclusively to Todd. "What we do know is there were conversations during the transition period. During the transition period there's still only one president and that was President Obama, so those conversations should not have confirmed, should not have been taking place."

"The president should have no comment whatsoever on either of these investigations. And the only thing that he should be doing is directing all of his staff and associates to fully cooperate," said Collins. [Watch the full interview](#), including her vote on tax reform.

Corey Lewandowski, former Trump campaign manager, and **David Bossie**, deputy campaign manager to Trump for the general election, joined Todd live on set exclusively to discuss their new book, "Let Trump Be Trump." Todd asked both if Flynn references in the book were scrubbed out, noting "there are exactly two." "He didn't even make acknowledgements. And you listed every other person in the campaign in the acknowledgement," said Todd.

On the Access Hollywood tape, Bossie says "it's clear that it is" Trump on the tape. [Watch the full interview.](#)

Eddie Glaude, Jr. of Princeton University, historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin**, GOP strategist **Mike Murphy** and **Danielle Pletka** of the American Enterprise Institute joined this morning's "Meet the Press" roundtable to discuss the week in politics, including [the future of the Russia investigation](#). On Trump, Goodwin asked, "How can he be happy? The administration has been under a shadow from the beginning."

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on [MeetThePress.com](https://www.meetthepress.com).

MTP EXCLUSIVE: SANDERS SAYS 'I DON'T THINK WE'RE THERE RIGHT NOW' ON TRUMP IMPEACHMENT, 'JUMPING THE GUN DOES NOBODY ANY GOOD'

EXCLUSIVE: Scott: If Moore Wins in Alabama, "There Will Immediately Be An Ethics Investigation"

EXCLUSIVE: House Intel Member Says Trump Jr. "Was Forthcoming" Besides Declining to Answer a Question About a Conversation With His Father

Chuck Todd Visits Alabama, Talks with Voters Ahead of Tuesday's Senate Race

DECEMBER 10, 2017 – In an exclusive interview with "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) addressed calls from Tom Steyer and House members to impeach President Trump, telling Todd: "I don't think we're there right now. That's what the Mueller investigation is all about."

"I think there is a process that has to be followed. I think Mr. Mueller is doing a very good job on his investigation. And if Mueller brings forth the clear evidence that there was collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russians, I think you have grounds for impeachment," the senator said. "But I think jumping the gun does nobody any good." [Watch the full interview](#), including Sanders on Franken and the tax reform bill.

Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), who also exclusively joined the broadcast, said that if Republican candidate Roy Moore wins the Alabama Senate race this Tuesday, "there will immediately be an ethics investigation." He added: "As far as I can tell, the allegations are significantly stronger than the denial. And I'm going to let my decision be made by the breadth of information and evidence that I'm able to review during that process."

The senator told Todd that "the allegations or the accusations against the president were a part of the campaign. So most Americans, if not all Americans who voted, had the information before the election. So for us to try to re-litigate the election is impossible." [Watch the full interview](#), including Scott on the tax reform bill.

Todd visited Alabama this week to talk with voters about the state's Senate race between Moore and Democratic candidate Doug Jones, which one voter said "will be really freaking close." [Watch Todd's conversations with voters.](#)

In an exclusive, on-set interview, Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.), a member of the House Intelligence Committee, discussed Donald Trump, Jr.'s testimony earlier this week: "He declined to answer a question about a conversation that he'd had with his father that may be relevant to the Don Jr. meeting at Trump Tower. Apart from that, I would say he was forthcoming." [Watch the full interview.](#)

Democratic strategist Cornell Belcher, David Brooks of The New York Times, NBC News' Hallie Jackson and Peggy Noonan of The Wall Street Journal joined the "Meet the Press" roundtable for insight and analysis this morning, including a discussion ahead of Tuesday's Alabama Senate race. Brooks noted: "To me, the big thing about this race is politics really matters. We care a lot about politics. But there are things that matter more: the state of your soul, the quality of your faith, the state of your character – and what this race is about are those things less important than politics. And what a lot of people are doing are seeing the Republican Party say, "Yeah, politics come before your faith and your character," and a lot of people are appalled.

Read the full transcript of this morning's "Meet the Press" on [MeetThePress.com](https://www.meetthepress.com).

MTP EXCLUSIVE: SHORT ON IDEA OF TRUMP FIRING MUELLER: 'THERE'S NO CONVERSATION ABOUT THAT WHATSOEVER IN THE WHITE HOUSE'

PLUS: White House Legislative Affairs Director Short: "This Administration Has Complied in Every Single Possible Way With The Special Counsel"

EXCLUSIVE: Manchin: "I Do Not at All Believe That Mr. Mueller Has Been Compromised or His Investigation"

EXCLUSIVE: Kasich Says GOP Tax Bill Could Have Done Better for Middle Class

NEW NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll: Democrats Hold Biggest Edge in Nearly a Decade Ahead of 2018 Midterm Elections

DECEMBER 17, 2017 – In an exclusive interview this morning on “Meet the Press,” White House legislative affairs director Marc Short addressed speculation about President Trump firing Special Counsel Mueller, telling moderator Chuck Todd: “There’s no conversation about that whatsoever in the White House.”

“Thankfully, I’m not in communication with the transition lawyer for the Trump team. The reality is that this administration has complied in every single possible way with the special counsel. Tax payers have spent millions and millions of dollars on this investigation that has not yet proven any sense of collusion with the Russians,” said Short. “We have continued to cooperate in every single possible way with that investigation.” Watch the full interview.

When asked if Mueller’s investigation has been comprised, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) exclusively replied, “I do not at all believe that Mr. Mueller has been compromised or his investigation. ... He is the person, the right person, that when he finishes his investigation that we’re going to have confidence it was done in a fair and balanced way. I truly believe that. And I’m not led to believe that anybody on Intelligence Committee thinks that he would not be the right person.” On the Democratic Party’s potential 2018 message to impeach President Trump, the senator told Todd: “I don’t think impeachment is something we should be talking about.” Watch the full interview.

Gov. John Kasich (R-Ohio) also exclusively joined the program, telling Todd that when it comes to the Republican tax bill, “Do I think they could have done better for the middle class? I do. Do I think they could have done better for the working poor? I mean, Rubio tried to get something. He made some progress. But they could have increased the rates a little bit for big business. It wouldn’t have mattered.” Watch the full interview.

New NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll numbers debuted on this morning’s broadcast, revealing that Democrats now enjoy their largest advantage in congressional preference in nine years. The full poll will be released later this week.

Read the full transcript of this morning’s “Meet the Press” on MeetThePress.com.

For more from moderator Chuck Todd throughout the week, sign up for the “First Read” newsletter, and subscribe to “1947: The Meet The Press Podcast” for on-demand interviews.

Dec 31 2017, 8:45 am ET

Meet the Press - December 24, 2017

NBC News - Meet the Press

"12.24.17."

(BEGIN TAPE) CHUCK TODD: This Sunday, Democrats, Republicans and President Trump. What Republicans said this year on Meet the Press. KELLYANNE CONWAY: Sean Spicer, our press secretary, gave alternative facts. REINCE PRIEBUS: But then we started thinking about whether or not Michael Flynn was being straight with us. SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM: Here's what I think Assad's telling Trump by flying from this base: "F you." CHUCK TODD: And what Democrats had to say. REP. JOHN LEWIS: I don't see this president-elect as a legitimate president. SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: We have a president who is delusional in many respects, a pathological liar. SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN: What we're beginning to see is the putting together of a case of obstruction of justice. CHUCK TODD: We'll look at a fractured Republican Party, whether Democrats embrace or avoid the push for impeachment, and at both parties' uneasy relationship with President Trump. Plus, war on the media. President Trump calls the media, the "enemy of the American people." This morning, a panel of top media critics on the president and the press. GABE SHERMAN: My biggest fear is that there'd be a chilling effect and that newsrooms will be cowed. CHUCK TODD: And the new politics of shopping. Where do you shop online? More than ever, this holiday season, where you shop reveals how you vote. Welcome to Christmas Eve Sunday, it's Meet the Press. ANNOUNCER: From NBC News in Washington, the longest running show in television history. This is Meet the Press with Chuck Todd. (END TAPE) CHUCK TODD: Good Sunday morning and a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone this Christmas Eve. This morning we're going to take a look back at one of the most extraordinary political years in our lifetimes: Year one of the Trump presidency. And we're going to do that with four of the people whom you've come to know on Meet the Press: Hugh Hewitt, host on the Salem Radio Network and host of "Hugh Hewitt" on MSNBC. Amy Walter, National Editor of the Cook Political Report. Carol Lee, national political reporter for NBC News. And Gene Robinson, a columnist for the Washington Post. Welcome to all of you. Before I make you guys take over the conversation, we're going to start with the elected Republicans and Trump administration officials who've joined us on Sunday mornings in 2017: what they said, the story they tell, the policies they sold. The year ended with a victory for President Trump: his biggest and perhaps only real legislative achievement, it's a 1.5 trillion dollar tax cut passed with only Republican votes. But the year was dominated by, a lot of things, including the Russia investigation, and the effort, the failed effort, to repeal and replace Obamacare and the growing divide inside the Republican Party, culturally driven by the president. And it all started with a debate over inauguration crowd size right here. (BEGIN TAPE)

Meet the Press - December 31, 2017

NBC News - Meet the Press

"12.31.17"

(BEGIN TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

This Sunday, looking back at 2017 and ahead to 2018. President Trump, did he keep his promises?

DONALD TRUMP:

I will be the greatest jobs president that God has ever created. The tax relief will be concentrated on the working and middle class. I will be president for all Americans.

CHUCK TODD:

We'll look at promises made, promises kept, and promises broken, plus, the 2018 political landscape. Democrats aimed to take back Congress.

CHUCK SCHUMER:

You could smell a wave coming. Our republican friends better look out.

CHUCK TODD:

But republicans hope to hang on to power.

SEN. CORY GARDNER

I-- I feel very optimistic about 2018.

CHUCK TODD:

Also, 2020, potential candidates are already visiting early primary and caucus states and dreaming of challenging the president.

FMR. VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

I may very well. And I'm being as honest as I can.

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE:

Where do you stand? Are you likely to run?

SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN:

This is not what I'm doing.

CHUCK TODD:

How many democrats will jump in? And will any republicans primary President Trump? And the ways the president has influenced culture, from the words we use to race.

DONALD TRUMP:

Very fine people on both sides.

CHUCK TODD:

Welcome to New Year's Eve Sunday. It's Meet the Press.

ANNOUNCER:

From NBC News in Washington, the longest-running show in television history. This is Meet the Press with Chuck Todd.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

Good Sunday morning and a happy New Year's Eve to everyone. Almost from the moment he put his left hand on the Bible at his inauguration, President Trump signaled to the country that his presidency would be different, different in ways that would thrill millions and different in ways that would appall millions more. It began with a jarring comment about the state of the country.

(BEGIN TAPE)

DONALD TRUMP:

This American carnage stops right here and stops right now.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

Within a day, Press Secretary Sean Spicer lectured White House reporters, arguing, implausibly, that more people witnessed Donald Trump's inauguration than President Obama's. And a day later, here on Meet the Press, the President's counselor, Kellyanne Conway, offered this explanation.

(BEGIN TAPE)

KELLYANNE CONWAY:

Sean Spicer, our press secretary, gave alternative facts.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

That inauguration weekend kicked off a year of friction between the White House and the press, between the president's supporters and his detractors, between liberals and conservatives, which has helped feed an uneasy sense that we, as a country, are more divided than we have been for decades, if not, longer.

Over the next hour, we're going to look back at the past year and ahead to the next. Our panel this New Year's Eve morning, Charlie Cook, editor and publisher of The Cook Political Report, NBC News White House correspondent, Kristen Welker, BBC anchor Katty Kay, whose show, Beyond 100 Days, will begin appearing on PBS starting Tuesday, and Rich Lowry, editor of The National Review. We're going to start things off by looking at some of the promises made by candidate Donald Trump and talk about whether he's been able to make good on them or not. Let's watch.

(BEGIN TAPE)

DONALD TRUMP:

Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslim entering the United States. \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment. The tax relief will be concentrated on the working and middle class. I will be the greatest jobs president that God has ever created. Repealing and replacing Obamacare, a disaster.

Save Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, without cuts. Have to do it. I pledge, to every citizen of our land, that I will be president for all Americans. We will build a great, great wall. And Mexico, Mexico, Mexico, Mexico will pay for the wall.

(END TAPE)

CHUCK TODD:

All right, guys. What's been the single most important promise he made and the single most important promise he's kept? Rich Lowry, I'm going to start with you. Because I think the wall is probably the single most important promise connected to him as candidate.

RICH LOWRY:

Yeah. That was a signature promise and was probably the most flagrantly unrealizable promise in all of American presidential politics, the idea that Mexico would pay for this wall.

CHUCK TODD:

Let alone build the wall. Yeah, but the other country paying for it.

RICH LOWRY:

But immigration is a success story for him. He doesn't have a wall. But by reestablishing a certain baseline of enforcement, it set an important message. And you have illegal border crossings down to, I think, the lowest level since 1971. I'm kind of surprised he doesn't boast about that more.

CHUCK TODD:

Katty, what's been the most important one that he's kept?

KATTY KAY:

The most important one, I think, that he's kept is that he would be the president for the people who voted for him. And he would carry on the culture wars in their favor, that he would carry on talking in ways that white, working-class voters, who felt that they had been neglected before, they feel they have somebody who is their president, that they don't have to be PC anymore, that they can say things that they might've wanted to say for years. And President Trump has emboldened them to do that.

CHUCK TODD:

What's the biggest one that he's missed, that he's whiffed on, in the first year?

KRISTEN WELKER:

I think a couple, Chuck. One, he said he was going to repeal and replace Obamacare. That didn't happen. He's tinkered with it around the edges. But where's the replacement? He also said he was going to prevent North Korea from advancing its nuclear program.

That hasn't happened. And that has proven to be one of the biggest foreign policy crises. And to pick up on what Katty is saying, I think that he has been a president for his base. But he has failed to be a president for all people. I think that, in many ways, the country's more divided. You

have the NFL. You have Charlottesville. And I think that's been a problem.

CHUCK TODD:

Charlie, I left you with the topic that is sort of interesting here, and that's the economy, in that it's been a great year. And that has not translated or, as John Rees (PH), my EP says, maybe it has. And he'd be at 25%, if it wasn't for the economy.

CHARLIE COOK:

You know, it's funny that so many polls show so many people dislike him, disapprove of him, maybe embarrassed by him, think he's a bull in a china closet on foreign policy, all these things. And yet, the economy's doing really well. And either, A, something he's done is right, or he's just really, really lucky. And I just kind of wonder whether the fact that maybe it's the absence of President Obama or just sort of the idea of a president that's less adversarial towards business, whether it sort of released some animal spirits in the economy. Or maybe he's just lucky.

CHUCK TODD:

Let's debate this. Luck, or has he done something?

KATTY KAY:

Let's go to 50,000 feet. Because you can see that there is a disconnect between political dysfunction around the world, not just here in the United States, but certainly in Europe, too. And there are national security issues that are looming, crisis in ways that we have not seen for a very long time. And yet, every single investor will tell you, "This is a great time economically." And at what point does that disconnect come back to haunt us, or doesn't it? Can we carry on operating where stock markets keep rising, unemployment keeps falling, growth is ticking up, wages are ticking up, and still have this political insecurity that's not just American political insecurity, but is global political insecurity?

CHUCK TODD:

You know, Rich, I remember you'd hear the frustration in the last two years of Obama, like, "Everything's there. It's poised to take off." But it wouldn't. Trump's election, and then to quote Charlie, whatever the animal spirit is, boom, it finally is here.

CHARLIE COOK:

So it's luck in that he inherited an economy that was in pretty good shape. It's not like Obama inheriting an economy that's cratering after a financial crisis. But it's more than luck in that policy matters. And the expectation of the market and the business community is that at least you'd see no new regulations, no new taxes, not any additional burdens on the economy. And we've seen even better than that from the business perspective. Because you've seen a major deregulation rollback and now a tax bill that is a generational change on the corporate side and will, all things being equal, be pro-growth.

KRISTEN WELKER:

And I think the White House would argue, the fact that they have cut so many regulations is really what has spurred this economy. Look at the way that President Trump dealt with healthcare versus taxes. He got right in on all of the details. He went out and sold the tax package. He ran as the jobs president. And I think that you have investors who feel good about that. The market, obviously, reflecting it. And we're starting to see that in his policies.

CHUCK TODD:

All right. Let's pivot a little bit to foreign policy. A year in, do we know what a Trump doctrine is, Katty?

KATTY KAY:

In some ways, it's a continuity of what we've had in the past. He has not reneged on Article V of NATO, which was a key campaign speculation. NAFTA is still in place for the moment. We still have American troops in Afghanistan. We still have them in Iraq. We still have them in Syria.

So in some ways, things are the same. What's different is that, in the foreign policy, the big security strategy review that the president gave at the end of the year, no mention of climate change as a national security threat, and no mention of American human rights and values. To me, the single biggest change with this president is that we are not seeing America leading the world through principle. America hasn't always gotten it right. But it has always relied on some sense of principle and higher moral standing. What we have now is a transactional American foreign policy.

CHUCK TODD:

Rich, you're nodding a lot there.

RICH LOWRY:

I think, on the basic structure, it's a center-right realism. And you see what the actual policy is, even on North Korea, where rhetorically, he's been very aggressive, it's a status-quo policy. Very cautious in the Middle East, more cautious both than George W. Bush and than Obama,

who did a big surge in Afghanistan early in his administration. But I agree, there needs to be more of an emphasis on ideals. This is a reaction against the crusade that George W. Bush fought for our ideals. But they are an important tool against our adversaries and in favor of our interests.

CHUCK TODD:

I don't sense coherence. Like, he does seem, "I'm going to get tough on China." And then he goes to China, "Isn't Xi great? He and I are pals." And you're going, "What?"

KRISTEN WELKER:

Well, and you see that disconnect with his rhetoric around North Korea, as well. He talked about fire and fury. And that made a lot of people very nervous that he was on the brink of taking some type of action. And he didn't. I think we won't really know what the Trump doctrine is, until we see how North Korea plays out. Will he take some type of limited military action? I mean, based on my conversations with senior officials, his military options are very few and very far between. So it doesn't look like that's likely. I do think, though, Chuck, we're seeing a retreat from multinationalism. He did pull out of TPP. He pulled out of Paris. And I think that is the beginning, at least, of a shift.

CHUCK TODD:

Of a legacy there.

CHARLIE COOK:

You know, the national security policy report that Katty referred to that was released just before Christmas, when I read it, it actually did provide some coherence to what, through the past year, has looked like complete random ricocheting around. And I couldn't tell whether, is this thing actually more coherent than I thought? Or is there just a heck of a speechwriter onboard? I tend to think the latter.

CHUCK TODD:

Let me ask you this. I feel like the issue we don't cover enough in foreign policy is, how close are we to war, a hot war, whether we're involved or not, but a hot war that involves Iran and, say, Saudi