

ROUGH-EDITED TEXT FILE

WTIS AM 1110 - The Inspiration Station  
"Tess Talk!"  
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[Music playing].

>> One, two, three, four.

>> TESS: I truly believe we are all angels put here on earth to love and serve each other.

I have met so many people who are doing good works in our community through creating non-profit, charitable organizations, and I've been very fortunate to meet so many people with inspirational lives.

Through sharing their stories and God's word, it is my hope to inspire others through these inspirational speakers and to motivate you and inspire you to reach your full potential in your personal and professional life. Welcome to "Tess Talk!"

>> [Singing]: And all the people said amen. Whoa, oh. And all the people said amen. Give thanks to the Lord for his love never ends. And all the people said amen.

>> TESS: Good morning, Tampa Bay, USA, and the world, this is Tess with WTIS, and you are listening to "Tess Talk!" Or you may be reading "Tess Talk!" through the realtime captioning.

So, good morning, everybody!

>> Good morning.

>> Good morning.

>> Good morning, Beimei.

>> BEIMEI: Good morning and I have my daughter, Sophie, with me too. Sophie, do you want to say hi?

>> Good morning, everybody, I'm nine-years-old and I'm awesome! That's all you need to know.

[Laughter].

>> A sassy nine-year-old!

>> TESS: First, we have Lisa Johnston, our realtime captioner with us today. Thank you, Lisa, I appreciate it. We have people on the phone already. Woo!

We have Kate, I've been practicing, I really have, and I need to --

>> KATE: Caravella.

>> TESS: It sounds like an ice cream or chocolate.

>> KATE: It's very exotic.

>> TESS: Sounds like chocolate caramel to me, my favorite chocolate. Welcome, Kate, and Kate is from ICM and Associates and the Murphee and Sugar Angel Foundation. And we have Mike Massimini from the Coast Guard, and we have Beimei from Aki Sushi, and we have Bob in the room who is Kate's husband, do you want to say hi, Bob, in the mic?

>> BOB: Hi, Bob.

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: Did you just say hi to yourself?

[Laughter].

>> KATE: That's my husband.

>> TESS: He fits right in with us. We have Julia, my assistant over here, if she can shout out. Shout out. Let's see, turn around, Herb, and wave to her. Say hi.

>> Hi!

>> TESS: Thank you so much. So we're going to -- oh, I'm sorry, we have Kathy, the most important person here at the helm who is running everything for me trying to keep me in line.

>> KATHY: I'm not sure I'm the most important person here.

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: You have the most difficult job, though, Kathy.

>> KATHY: Well, I do have to push a few buttons.

>> TESS: You are my new best friend and I do appreciate you.

We are going to start, this is a Christian station, we need to begin with a prayer, so please join me in prayer. Bow your heads.

Dear God, please help me to behave on my radio show today. Amen.

>> Amen.

>> Amen.

>> Amen, everybody.

>> TESS: So, how was your week, Beimei?

>> BEIMEI: Well, I can't even begin to tell you how happy I am that I'm so -- I'm finally healthy again! Because last week the entire week I was dealing with the flu and, oh my gosh, only when you're sick when you realize that you take everyday that when you're healthy for granted! You know, when you're not feeling well. It's just a flu, it's not even something that's devastating, but still, everything just seemed to lost its charm, the blue sky is too bright, the music gives me a headache, nothing tastes good, I didn't even have coffee and wine for the entire week because it didn't taste good to me!

>> TESS: Go ahead, Sophie.

>> SOPHIE: Isn't that unhealthy for you?

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: Well, Sophie, you're way too young. Listen, I adore my cup of coffee in the morning and I absolutely need my glass of wine at the night.

>> MIKE: Beimei, did we have a special day last week?

>> BEIMEI: Oh my gosh! Yeah, Monday was my birthday. Don't ask me how old I am. I'm always 27!

>> TESS: Happy birthday.

>> MIKE: I texted you happy birthday in Chinese.

>> BEIMEI: Thank you so much, I laughed, it made my heart smile! Thank you so much!

>> TESS: What I saw last weekend, it was on Sunday, I went to see Garrison Keillor, I don't know if you know who that is, Beimei, he's a talk show host and has been on the radio for 40 years, I've heard him on NPR for many years and it was awesome, great story teller.

>> BEIMEI: How did you meet him? Was it a fundraiser or....

>> TESS: No, I saw him in a performance. I was going to stop by and meet him and say hey, I'm a fellow talk show host. (Laughing)

>> BEIMEI: Exactly, you really should!

>> TESS: The line was so long, so I skipped that. But he was awesome and he was really great and he tells stories about when he was really young and tells nursery rhymes and sings songs, he's a great song writer and it reminded me of a song in kindergarten -- no, I didn't go to kindergarten, it was first grade, go tell aunt Rhody that the old gray goose is dead. I know, sad, right? It's very sad. One day we had a substitute music teacher and then she continued, like, the verses go, go tell her he's dead, the next verse is he died in the mill pond standing on his head and then --

>> That's awful!

>> BEIMEI: I know! That's for a child?

>> TESS: Yeah, these are the only verses I heard and the substitute teacher came and played the next verse and that he was only sleeping and I was, like, what? How come our teacher never said he was sleeping?! I was so upset for years.

Anyway, when the memories were brought back because of Garrison Keillor, I looked for the lyrics online that said he was just sleeping.

>> BEIMEI: Oh, your teacher made it up to make you feel better?

>> TESS: I don't know where she heard that.

>> BEIMEI: I like that, though. Doesn't that soothe your soul?

>> TESS: Well, no, this is a lie, I've learned, I've lived with a lie my whole life, so it really bothered me.

>> BEIMEI: It's a story and you can write your own ending sometime.

>> TESS: That's true. Talk about stories, one of my favorite stories, like, reading to my kids, was it was a dark and stormy night.... I don't know if you've ever heard that story.

Has anybody heard that story before? It was a dark and stormy night? Great story and it was about this kid being caught by pirates and they say you have to tell a story and he always tells a story "It was a dark and stormy night" and tells a story about being captured and this goes on and on, it's really funny and really good.

My other favorite one when my kids were young was the stinky cheese man and other stupid tales and it was funny --

>> BEIMEI: That's an interesting title.

>> TESS: There's a twist on all of the familiar fairy tales, and the one, instead of the gingerbread man, it's a stinky cheese man, run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the stinky cheese man. And when he runs by people, they're, like, pee-yew! Why would we want to catch you? And the rest of the story, I think it's the wolf that gets the gingerbread man who wants to take him across the lake or over the water and he's on top of his nose and something happens, I remember in the stinky cheese man, it was, like, pee-yew, and he falls into the water. And when my younger son Calen was in kindergarten, the teacher asked, what is another word for melt? Because he fell in the water. And he said "disintegrated."

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: How old was he?

>> TESS: About five-years-old. I was worried about the Game Boys, when they came out, they play a lot of video games, and he learned that word through game boy in games with different strategies.

>> BEIMEI: What do you know? A game that gives you more vocabulary. I probably should play more.

>> TESS: Yeah, I remember him showing me something at a friend's house, I think he was four or five, I don't even know if I was in kindergarten yet but it was so funny, he grabbed me and wanted me to look into the closet because it was full of toys and he said mom, peer through here. (Laughting) We read to him all the time.

I want to read the Daily Word for the day before we go on our break.

The Daily Word for today is -- it's brought to you by Unity, a publication of Unity and today's word is "I can." I know it's two words, but the word for the day is "I can." So I

have the power to make a difference.

Throughout my life, I may have heard differing opinions about my ability to succeed. Jesus taught the one who believes in me to do the works that I can do and in fact will do greater works than these.

If he can claim the unlimited potential to those to come after him, how can I believe anything else? In my prayer time, I become aware of the spark of divinity within me that holds that potential.

From this awareness, I am able to see situations around me in a new perspective. I believe in myself. Any past mistakes or error thinking is simply that, the past. I now move forward in faith affirming I can.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and in fact will do greater works than these because I am going to the Father.”

That reminds me, of going to my father, it's like, “I'm going to tell my dad!”

In unison, everybody say "I can."

>> ALL: I can.

>> TESS: Okay. We have people on the phone, we have phone numbers, if you want to call in, the number to call in is 1-855-265-2929. That's 855-265-2929.

>> BEIMEI: I still have a free roll to give away for anyone who calls and asks Tess a difficult question.

>> TESS: That's a free roll from Aki Sushi.

And the text line, we have to tell Julia -- oh, can you turn around? There it is, 727-379-1154 -- you can chat in the chat room and we have one person from Arizona, we have Bill Reese in the chat room, we have Tim Kimball that said behave in all caps. I think that's it on my end so far, but we need to get going because we have to go into a break in just a second and we do have some phone calls and we will take them as soon as we get back from the break. So, everybody hang on and we'll see you in a few minutes.

>> BEIMEI: Don't touch that dial!

[Music playing].

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>> This is Inspiration AM 1110, WTIS Tampa.

>> [Singing]: Can I get a hallelujah? Can I get an amen? Feels like the Holy Ghost running through ya when I play the highway FM, I find my soul revival, singing every single verse. Yeah, I guess that's my church. Can I get a hallelujah....

>> TESS: Welcome back, everybody. This is Tess with WTIS and you are listening to "Tess Talk!" or you are reading the live realtime captioning and that can be found on the website, [www.wtis1110.com](http://www.wtis1110.com), that's 1110 dot com, and you can call in, 855-265-2929 or you can text in and the text message number is 727-379-1154.

And before we get to our first guest, Kate, I'm going to read you a little commercial from one of our sponsors, Clearview Accounting Solutions is dedicated to you and all of your he accounting needs. With over 15 years of accounting experience, they have your bookkeeping needs covered. Their most important goal is making you a happy, life-long

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Thank you for sponsoring our show and you can contact me -- oh, it's [Tesstalk@wtis.com](mailto:Tesstalk@wtis.com) if anybody is interested in being a sponsor.

So, before I go on, I wanted to mention, I wanted to do a shout out for Sam from SE Automotive because he helped me with my AC in my car this week.

>> BEIMEI: And we love you, and he is so good, he just changed my oil which was, like, 3,000 overdue.

[Laughter].

>> TESS: That's not bad.

>> BEIMEI: You're supposed to change at, like, every 3,000.

>> MIKE: No, that's perfect.

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: Oh, why did he tell me 3,000?

>> TESS: That is the right thing to do.

>> BEIMEI: Thank you.

>> TESS: And Sam knows my need for AC and so does Kathy and everybody else here [laughs].

>> BEIMEI: Everybody else, apparently!

>> TESS: So, welcome, Kate! How are you?

>> KATE: I'm well, thank you.

>> TESS: You are from a couple different of organizations, you're all over the place like me.

>> KATE: I really am.

>> TESS: And I love it! Thank you for understanding me.

>> KATE: Thank you for understanding me!

>> TESS: The first one is ICM Associates, it's a wonderful intervention organization and we're going to talk about actually people with addictions and what you do to help them.

>> KATE: Yes, we work with families. We've been -- I co-founded the company with my sister, Meg Bernard.

>> TESS: Oh, yeah, I met Meg too.

>> KATE: Yeah, we founded the company in 2001 and at the time family intervention with addictions was not something that was a very popular concept and there were only a few in the country, a few intervention specialists and all of them were male, so my sister and I, Meg, we were the first female --

>> Wow!

>> KATE: Yes, and so we work with families who have family members struggling with addiction or mental health issues and we work to convince the person to go into a treatment program and save their life.

>> BEIMEI: Well, don't you think that a female has a better way to approach because it's very soft, right? Not threatened?

>> KATE: Well, I think it's a different way. I think it's -- different way -- we've worked with a lot of clients, female clients with trauma histories and so sometimes having a gender-specific interventionist really makes it a little bit easier for them to open up and become a roll model.

>> BEIMEI: What inspired you to do that?

>> KATE: I had worked at a treatment center, one of the first treatment centers in the country called the Hazelton Foundation in their admissions department and family members would call the admissions department all the time and say I have a family member, friend or co-worker that needs help and they won't accept it.

And the thinking in the field about 15 years ago tended to be more of, well, you have to -- the person has to hit bottom, they have to lose everything before they're willing to get help, and I personally just didn't feel that that needed to happen, I didn't feel that a person needed to --

>> BEIMEI: To hit bottom.

>> KATE: And so we come together as a family and support group and co-workers and we all get together. It's a very powerful message.

>> TESS: I was involved in one of the interventions with Kate and that's how we met, I was providing realtime captioning for one of the family members and it's a very interesting process and you do an excellent job, by the way.

And the whole family is educated ahead of time and everybody is so prepared, every detail is mapped out, even down to where everyone is sitting.

>> KATE: Yes.

>> TESS: And the order of who's speaking and when they're going to speak.

>> KATE: We script out what they're going to say so that the person can hear it as best they can.

>> BEIMEI: So basically you have a meeting with a family member before you sit down with the person.

>> KATE: Yes, we do a lot of prep before heading into this to make sure everybody is on the same page and can communicate their feelings effectively and in a way the person can hear them.

But the person is not generally aware of the fact that this meeting is taking place.

>> BEIMEI: That is really smart!

>> TESS: And it's wonderful, because I know you've saved many lives through this process.

>> KATE: I think so, yes.

>> TESS: And many people, I think just about every family has someone that needs help.

>> KATE: Pretty much.

>> TESS: There's always someone in the family that has an addiction. So how would they contact you for an intervention?

>> KATE: Well, our main office is in Boca Raton, Florida, on the East Coast of Florida, 561-498-5827 and locally here in the St. Petersburg Tampa area the number is 727-392-5600.

>> TESS: And the website?

>> KATE: Wwww.lcmassoc.com so it's ICM Assoc dot com.

>> BEIMEI: Kate, you're doing great on your speed, you're talking perfect!

>> KATE: I am trying so hard!

[Laughter].

>> BEIMEI: You're doing a great job!

>> KATE: Anybody that knows me knows.

>> TESS: Kate speaks very quickly! I know, I was there eight hours.

>> KATE: It was an eight hours intervention and Tess spent quite a bit of time watching me in action.

>> TESS: Yes, my typing speed really improved! We're going to switch gears here and talk about your non-profit organization which is so unique and so interesting and I'm sorry we only have four minutes for it, so --

>> KATE: You want me to talk quickly?

[Laughter].

>> TESS: No, I don't think Lisa would appreciate that! But let's see, the name of it is?

>> KATE: The Murphee and Sugar Angel Foundation, we're a 501(c)(3), we founded the organization a year and a half ago, it is named after my cat Murphee and her former cat Sugar. Both who had unfortunately passed due to cancer and what we do is we provide financial assistance to pets in need whose pet parents don't have the ability to pay for veterinary care.

>> TESS: That is so wonderful, what a great concept, everybody loves their pets like their kids, they're literally just like their children and when they come to medical expenses and then they have to decide, you know, we need to pay the bills and we need a place to stay and we need -- they need food and we need help paying for our pet.

>> BEIMEI: Unfortunately there is no animal insurance, is there?

>> KATE: Yes, there is.

>> BEIMEI: There is? I didn't know that.

>> KATE: What happens is you can't have a preexisting condition and when my cat

Murphee was diagnosed with lymphoma, I couldn't get pet insurance at that point and it was thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars and luckily my husband and I had the ability to do this, but I came across so many people faced with the choice of having to euthanize their pet simply because they didn't have the medications to treat them or didn't have the diagnostics to treat them.

>> TESS: So how many pet lives have you saved?

>> KATE: Over 100 in the past year and a half.

>> BEIMEI: That's amazing!

>> KATE: We're a very, very small organization, just Jeanette and I, 100% of the fees go to the organization and we pay for the administrative costs and we have a lot of fundraising and we're one of the only organizations that have the ability and we are in different parts of the country.

>> TESS: Tell us about your fundraisers coming up.

>> KATE: I do have fundraisers coming up.

>> BEIMEI: Before you get to that, I wanted to tell you between all the animals you save and the people you're helping, you are a true angel!

>> KATE: Thank you.

>> BEIMEI: That's amazing!

>> KATE: Okay, so, yes, we have a few upcoming fundraisers, one is called the Kendra gives back party which is Kendra Scott Jewelry, they're opening a brand new park in Hyde Park Village and they're hosting a fundraiser for us providing drinks and food and 20% of all the profits from the sales that night will go to the foundation.

>> TESS: That's awesome. Thank you. We'll talk more about that when we talk about the upcoming fundraisers in the program. We're going to take a break and when we come back, we'll have the Schluvittt show.

>> Inspiration WTIS AM 1110, this is Inspiration AM 1110 news.

Flash flooding in east Texas has claimed the lives of a 64-year-old grandmother and her grandchildren. A creek breached and they slipped and researchers look for survivors of a collapsed building in Nairobi.

>>> People are pulling people from the rubble and the question is how many people are

buried under this rubble and how long is it going to take for authorities to get to them.

>> At least ten people have been killed.

Severely weather threatening people in the mid United States.

>>> We saw a very active weather including a watch box in effect stretching from Kentucky all the way down towards Austin, Texas, a lot of lightning.

>> At least 24 people dead, 30 wounded in a car bomb in Bagdad and targeted Shiite.  
I'm William Cruise.

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>> You're listening to Inspiration AM 1110, WTIS Tampa.

>> [Singing]: Because I'm happy. Clap along if you feel like room without a roof.

Because I'm happy. Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth.

Because I'm happy. Clap along if you know what happiness is for you.

Because I'm happy. Clap along if you feel like that's what you want to do.

>> TESS: Welcome back, everybody! This is Tess with WTIS and you are listening to "Tess Talk!" or you are reading the live realtime captioning that we have for this program.

And we wanted to -- Beimei is going to read the call-in number and the text-in number.

>> BEIMEI: You can call us at 855-265-2929 or you can text us at 727-379-1154. But remember if you text, put your name behind your text so we know who is sending the text.

>> TESS: That's a good idea. Thank you. And we do have people in the chat box and we do have people online and texting in.

And before we go on to the Schluvittt show, Kate, where can we get information about the Murray and Sugar Angel Foundation?

>> KATE: It is [www.Murpheeandsugar.org](http://www.Murpheeandsugar.org) and Murphee is spelled M-U-R-P-H-E-E rather than the traditional.

>> TESS: Awesome. Thank you very much and we'll talk about that a little bit more when we talk about our fundraisers.

Okay now on to the Schluvittt Show!

>> BEIMEI: I love this.

>> TESS: Let me explain. I do a motivational presentation called how to be happy and I was trying to come up with an acronym to help people remember all of the different elements on how to be happy.

So, we took one letter from each element and then I had to come up with something and it turned out to be Schluvittt, so that's your new vocabulary word.

So I want everybody to repeat after me. Schluvittt.

>> ALL: Schluvittt.

>> TESS: Go Schluvittt.

>> ALL: Go Schluvittt.

>> TESS: Just Schluvittt.

>> ALL: Just Schluvittt.

>> TESS: Just go Schluvittt.

>> ALL: Just go Schluvittt.

>> TESS: Woo! If somebody is being a negative Nancy at home or at work, you can tell them to just go Schluvittt and they will be wondering what you're talking about.

>> BEIMEI: They won't be mad!

[Laughter].

>> TESS: So the first week we had the letter S and that was for say something nice. Then there was C for compare, SC -- H was for health, like eating sushi.

>> BEIMEI: Which is so important!

>> TESS: L last week was for laugh, and this week is U for understanding, and let me explain.

What I do is I begin with the optical illusion picture of this older woman -- well, it's a picture of this woman and you can either see it -- you can look at it and see either an older -- they say an old hag and I hate to say that [chuckles] that's just not nice, or you look at it from another perspective and you can see a beautiful young woman.

Have you all seen that optical illusion before? Have you seen that?

>> BEIMEI: Not this particular picture, but I have seen the similar concept before.

>> MIKE: Yeah, you showed that to me once, but I could only see the hag.

[Laughter].

>> MIKE: I had a hard time seeing the young lady.

>> BEIMEI: Really?

>> MIKE: Ultimately she showed it to me, you showed it to me, I'm looking at the hag now and I still cannot see the beautiful young lady.

>> TESS: Okay. Well, Mike, just --

>> KATE: I see the hag too.

[Multiple people speaking at once].

>> TESS: Just look next to you, Beimei, the beautiful lady.

[Multiple people speaking at once].

>> BEIMEI: Here's the thing, I'm sitting right next to Tess and I for the first time have seen this picture. All that I see was a beautiful young girl with a white scarf. I mean that's all I see! Until Tess mentioned that it's an old lady, I was, like, where is the old lady, that's what I saw.

No, all that I see, hey! That makes me a very optimistic person.

>> MIKE: I agree.

>> KATE: That glass is more full than half empty.

>> BEIMEI: It's always full.

>> TESS: I show this optical illusion because this is a perfect analogy. So if you are in a situation and in a debate with someone and you're trying to convince them of something and you say how do they not see my point of view and not agree with me? This is the situation. They're looking at it from their perspective and they see a totally different picture, but you're both looking at the same exact picture.

So if you try to understand somebody else's perspective, try to understand that they're looking at the same thing and that's what it looks like to them, which is not how it looks to you.

>> BEIMEI: I know, right? But it's almost like you have to wear their shoes and walk their way.

>> TESS: Right.

>> BEIMEI: So you put yourself in their situation, try to imagine. That's how you can better understand.

>> TESS: And then I have another story that goes along with this.

When I was -- when my kids were young, I always read *Chicken Soup For The Soul*, great stories, oh, my God, I was always in tears.

>> MIKE: They are.

>> TESS: But there was this one story about this mom -- or this dad that took his kid to the park, a little girl, and he was sitting on the park bench next to a mom who had her kids playing and then the little girl, the dad said come on, honey, it's time to go and she said please, can I have five more minutes? Please? And the dad said okay, sure, that's okay, go ahead and play.

And then she came back, and then he said okay, five minutes is up, come on, it's time to go and she said please, can I have just five more minutes, please? And he said okay, honey, go ahead, and she went off playing and there was a mom sitting next to him who looked at him and started lecturing him on how to be a good parent and how, you know,

if you let your kids get away with this, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, and he just let her vent and then at the end, he said ma'am, I used to have two little girls and I would do anything for five more minutes with that girl.

>> BEIMEI: Oh, you'll make me cry....

>> TESS: Yeah, it makes me cry every time I tell this story too.

But it's such a wonderful story. And if you stop to think about somebody else's perspective, you never know what somebody else is going through, you never know their story.

Somebody else told me a story about this man who was on a train with his three boys and they were young and they were just, like, running all over the place and, you know, just playing, and the one woman said can't you control your children? You know, this is a train, you should sit -- they should be sitting down and behaving or whatever, and he said oh, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, he said my mind was somewhere else. We were just coming back from the hospital and their mother just died. And I just wasn't thinking. I'm sorry.

>> BEIMEI: You never know the other person's story!

>> TESS: Right.

>> BEIMEI: Oh my goodness.

>> TESS: If you try to understand somebody else's perspective, it does contribute to your happiness, because you're not so upset and it also draws feelings of compassion which leads to happiness.

>> BEIMEI: Yep, totally agreed.

>> TESS: So, talking about feelings of compassion, I remember, Mike, there were some boating accidents not too long ago and where it -- where kids died and, you know, boating safety is so important and so I would like you to speak about boating safety.

>> MIKE: Thank you. Yeah, thank you. We have boating safety classes every Wednesday night at the Gandy Ramp, it's open to the public, it starts at 7:30 and I greatly encourage anybody to come out and participate.

Every single Wednesday night we offer these classes and boating safety is important.

We have more and more people going out in the water every year. There's 400 square

miles in Tampa Bay, it's a massive, massive area, but with boating safety skills, we can and have lowered the fatality on the Bay, so every year we have more and more people coming on the Bay but every year we have less and less fatalities, which is significant and substantial and that really comes from, I think, the recognition that boating safety is key, important, and what a responsible boater should be doing is getting that education and getting and treating safety as a priority.

So, every Wednesday night we have that so please come out and take advantage of that and we also want to get the word out that paddle boarding is now considered a vessel and as a result of it being considered a vessel, you are now required by the Coast Guard to have a life jacket, B, a whistle, and C, at night a white light.

So, boat safely, yes.

>> TESS: Is there a special kind of whistle that we need or just any whistle?

>> MIKE: Any kind of whistle would be fine.

We actually prefer non-metallic whistles and prefer the whistles that don't have the cork inside of them so we prefer the whistles that don't have any kind of ball inside of them and the plastic ones because those will last much longer.

If you have a metallic whistle or a whistle with a cork ball inside of it, in a year's time, because salt water and the environment, they may not work.

>> They will rust away over time.

>> MIKE: Yeah, salt water rusts them away.

>> TESS: Where do you find them? At the toy store?

>> MIKE: Absolutely. I'm sure you can find them off of Amazon but any of the boating stores have them. You can get them at Kmart or Walmart.

>> The dollar store, 100 for \$3.

>> MIKE: Yeah, probably so.

>> I like that idea.

>> TESS: Yeah, maybe we can give them out at Rick's on the river at our fundraiser.

>> MIKE: Another thing, if you guys, if you can write on your paddle boat and kayak your name and telephone number, that would be a great service to the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. We give out little stickers you can put on those vessels so you

can write your name and telephone number on them and the reason for that is because if your paddle boat or kayak floats away, we assume that you're lost, we assume that you're missing and we will start a full-out search and rescue mission.

So, we encourage you to put your name and telephone number on there so if we find a boat in the water or somebody reports a boat in the water, we can call and immediately say and check to see if you're actually with us or we need to be looking for you, mmm-hmm.

>> TESS: Well, thank you so much, Mike, very, very helpful information and will probably save some lives this way. Thank you so much for sharing.

Kate, you mentioned something about for people that are chatting or they wanted to enter the chat room.

>> KATE: Yes. My friends and family who enter the chat room, if you say who you are and where you're calling, listening in from, I will personally donate 50¢ to the Foundation.

>> BEIMEI: Wow.

>> KATE: I do this all the time, actually.

>> TESS: Awesome! And Bob really appreciates that too, doesn't he.

>> KATE: Bob really appreciates ongoing donations to my organization.

>> TESS: The Hearing Loss Association of America Lakeland meets the second Thursday of each month, the First Presbyterian church at 15 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, the meetings are captioned and looped, I personally caption their meetings, they provide education, support and advocacy and their next meeting is May 12 and the speaker is presenting on fire safety for those with hearing loss.

Let's see, the website is [www.hla-lakeland.org](http://www.hla-lakeland.org) and the e-mail is [hla-lakeland@hotmail.com](mailto:hla-lakeland@hotmail.com) and you can call or text at 863-853-3130 and they're always looking for new members and sponsors.

When we come back, we'll speak to Robyn and Herb from Communication Access, Inc. Don't go away, we'll be back soon.

[Music playing].

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>> [Singing]: Can I get a hallelujah? Can I get an amen? Feels like the Holy Ghost running through ya. When I play the highway FM. I find my soul revival, singing every single verse. Yeah, I guess that's my church.

>> TESS: Welcome back, everybody! This is Tess with WTIS and you are listening to "Tess Talk!" or you are reading the live realtime captioning.

And a text was sent in and said I want to thank Kate Caravella for saving my dog's life. Oh, that's so nice! He is my true companion. Wow, that's awesome.

Oh, somebody else, Lynn from the Angel Foundation, they said what is the address for the chat room for the Murphee and Sugar Angel Foundation?

>> KATE: Actually, that's --

>> TESS: I think they were asking for the chat room for the realtime captioning. It's easier if you go to [www.wtis1110.com](http://www.wtis1110.com), that's the website and look under shows and "Tess Talk!" and that will bring up my page and then it will bring up the link for the live

realtime captioning.

I could read it here but it's really kind of long, but I will read it.

It's [www.streamtext.net/text.aspx?event=Tesstalk](http://www.streamtext.net/text.aspx?event=Tesstalk). It's easier to go on the website or go to [dynamiccommunicationstrategies.com](http://dynamiccommunicationstrategies.com), their website and there's a link where you can click on the link.

And Bill Reese just sent in a great story about a teacher who said everybody -- who told -- sorry -- all of the students to write down what problems they were having at home and they crumbled them up and put them all in a bag and everybody just chose one and then everybody got a random one and they got to read about other people's issues that they have in their life, and then when they were done, they put it all back in a bag and hung it at the door and it just helped people -- it helps the students remind -- it helps them -- the teacher is reminding those students about other people's problems and try to be more compassionate.

So, what a great story, Bill. Thank you for sharing.

And now we have OBI, Melissa is listening from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

>> KATE: They're part of the December Dozen, we haven't gotten to that yet.

>> TESS: Before we get to the December Dozen, somebody has a special birthday out there!

>> KATE: Yes, I'd like to say happy birthday to my cousin, Ben Bolte, he's eight-years-old.

>> ALL: Happy birthday.

>> KATE: We're thinking of all you guys, Ben, have a wonderful birthday.

>> TESS: We can do a real quick happy birthday song. Ready?

[Singing] happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday, dear Ben, happy birthday to you.

>> TESS: Happy birthday, Ben! I hope you have a great day.

We're going to get to Kate, and talk about the December Dozen and then talk to Robyn about an event at Rick's on the River and then Herb about a golf tournament. Ready, set, go!

>> KATE: I can do that, I can talk really quickly!

Through the foundation, I became friends with a lot of people on Facebook who are avid and very passionate about cats and dogs and their welfare. And in December I was invited to be part of a secret Facebook group, they were concerned about a member who had many, many, many, many cats, it was a hoarding situation and that is a mental health disorder, but essentially this man was living with 23 cats in Orlando in two dog crates in his van for six months. And this group intervened, and I met this amazing group of people through the foundation that came together to rescue these cats.

There was twelve of them that survived and seven that we arranged for fosters and for forever homes, seven stayed in Florida, two went to Baltimore, one went to California, one went to Maine and one went to New Hampshire.

Two of them came to my house [laughs]. I'm a foster failure, and they now live with us, we've adopted them. They were very traumatized cats. And Laura Strickland who spearheaded the majority of this effort who lives in Arizona came together, and through this group we stay in touch and we have pictures and they're all listening today and it's amazing, all these people I never would have met had it not been for this foundation and my cat Murphee.

>> TESS: And Cathy just chatted in the chat box, that was a great story, I'm from Wisconsin and I just want to say hi to Kate and Bob and thank them for adopting two of the December Dozen.

>> KATE: Thank you, Cathy.

>> TESS: Thank you so much. We're going to go to Robyn who is on the line with Communication Access, Inc. and Robyn, can you hear us?

[No response].

>> Hello?

>> TESS: I think I just hung her up! I just hung up!

[Laughter].

>> TESS: I didn't hang her up, I mean, I just hung up on her!

[Laughter].

>> TESS: Which reminds me, Julia was texting me this morning because we were

trying to find a ride for Robyn because she was -- she's on medication and can't drive and so she's using voice recognition and it came out she's knocked up.

[Laughter].

>> TESS: Instead of drugged up.

[Laughter].

>> KATE: I don't even want to tell you some of the things I've texted to people and e-mailed to people using that.

>> TESS: At one time, yeah, Tim Kimball who was our guest on here, and always on the chat box, he texted me once at the ball game and he was saying that -- he was using voice recognition, said I'm at gay porn and it was supposed to be gate four.

[Laughter].

>> TESS: So, sorry, a Christian radio show.

Robyn is on the line. Robyn, can you hear us?

>> I can.

>> TESS: Oh, yay! Thank you so much for joining us, I'm sorry you can't join us here, maybe you can join us at Aki Sushi for lunch!

>> That's such a wonderful place, it's so cute and the food is amazing.

>> BEIMEI: Thank you, Robyn.

>> Beimei has a sweet smile and bebops around there, and she is great.

>> BEIMEI: You are so kind. Thank you so much.

>> Well, it's all true.

>> TESS: Robyn, why don't you tell us --

>> Yeah, we're going to host a little party at Rick's on the River, they've donated the patio area out there and we're going to provide a little bit of free appetizers and some kind of games and 50/50 raffle and just inviting everybody to come on out and kind of meet some of the people that benefit from CAI. And some of our sponsors are going to be there and potentially some of the organizations that we work with, partner with, and help, to possibly also be there, so it's really just going to be this fun, interactive event.

>> TESS: And maybe we'll bring --

>> And try to raise awareness --

>> TESS: Maybe we'll bring whistles for everybody because we're going to be on the river and on the water and talk about boating safety.

>> MIKE: Good idea.

>> Exactly. I texted Julia when you said that and I was on text with Julia and I said that's perfect, I'll go to Party City and get some whistles.

I wanted to mention to you that my husband and I were on the races, off of [NAME] beach and the first two, two sailors went missing. Now, these are Olympic-level sailors, they went missing and it took so long, we kept listening on the radio, we could hear the Coast Guard and it took so long, and this is a question for Mike, why are the bright orange shirts and life jackets and all that not mandatory? Because you guys would have seen them in the water if they had a bright color, correct?

>> MIKE: Correct, yeah, we would have definitely seen them in the water.

You know, we can only mandate so much and currently it's just not something that we're allowed to do. And --

>> Yeah.

>> MIKE: -- most people who are seasoned boaters, they just don't often wear a life jacket, which is unfortunate.

>> Right.

>> MIKE: Even when I go out with my boys, obviously my kids wear life jackets but I always try to wear one and set the example, but sadly, most people don't.

Another thing too, you can get inflatable life jackets now which are very convenient to wear, they hang over your shoulder like a scarf and that's actually what I wear when I go out on my own personal boat and I would encourage people to get those and to wear those.

So, the --

>> Yeah, and that's what we wore on the race committee boat, we were tallying who is coming over the finish line and, you know, ineligible starts and things like that, and they're not bulky at all, and they were great.

>> TESS: Robyn, thank you for sharing the story.

>> We are a non-profit, sorry.

>> TESS: That's okay. I want Herb to talk about the divots for the Deaf coming up and I want to say that Communication Access, Inc. provides realtime captioning for non-profit organizations and we also do rehabilitation and mental health counseling, we also do education and advocacy, so that's what we're all raising funds for this organization. Go ahead, Herb.

>> HERB: And as you said, we are raising, in order to raise funds for this organization, and other organizations that help the deaf and hard of hearing, we are putting on a golf tournament on Monday, May 23rd at Westchase Golf Club, we're going to have quite a bit of prizes and a lot of fun, food will be provided, there will be a lot of competitions, we'll have a world long drive competitor you can compete with, we'll have a professional golfer, we'll have multiple games and prizes. If you've ever played a game called mash the melon, we have that and lots of prizes and lots of sponsors, including -- hi there -- including many sponsors and donations.

>> TESS: Ooh, that sounds like a great lineup.

Before we leave, I want to take a caller about Murphee and sugar. I'm afraid to touch anything here. Cathy? Do we have the caller on the line?

[No response].

>> TESS: We have, like, 20 seconds left.... go ahead.

[No response].

>> Hello?

>> TESS: Hello, how are you?

>> Great, how are you?

>> TESS: Just real quick, how are you doing?

>> I just wanted to say real quick that the Murphee and Sugar Foundation has helped me more than I can tell, I'm physically disabled and Kate and Bob and the Foundation have helped me so much and I helped with two of the December Dozens and I --

>> TESS: Oh, thank you so much!

>> I would love to say --

>> TESS: We have five seconds left, so we're going to --

>> We have a charity garage sale.

[End of show].