

CASA

caught in between like little ping pong balls,” Tim said. “We’ve always been open and sensitive to what transpires in those situations.”

After meeting with Executive Director Leslie Hendricks, agreeing to come abroad as volunteer CASAs, and being sworn in on March 18, Tim and Kate accepted their first case on March 24.

While the 30-day training session was difficult at times, Kate stated that it was invaluable to her and Tim in the early stages. Not only did it prepare them for the work they would be doing, but it shined a light on the entire process and their roles within it.

“That was kind of daunting...but when it was over, we were like, ‘Wow, we got through that! It wasn’t really that bad!’ We learned a lot,” Kate Carpenter said. “We thought the training



Tim and Kate Carpenter

was really, really good, and it totally prepared us for the case we are involved with right now. We learned a lot about policies, terminologies, and things we were

just not aware of before – how the system works, the life of a case, do and don’ts, and rights and wrongs.

“We are trying to take all of that knowledge and apply it to what we are doing to our case.”

In the first chapter of their CASA tenure, the Carpenters have been focused on getting to know the four kids they are serving, working diligently to build trust and a rapport with them. Along with a once-a-month check-in with the children they have worked closely with the Department of Child Services to stay on top of developments in the cases, while looking to Hendricks for guidance throughout the process.

The essential work that CASA of Grant County performs for Marion and Grant County is challenging. Despite tough days, Tim and Kate have not regretted taking up the mantle as volun-

teer CASAs.

Now, they hope that others will follow in their footsteps.

“We are helping, in this

case, four children, so that’s four children that needed help that weren’t getting help [before,]” and we are glad to be able to do that,”

Tim said. “We are hoping... that more people say, ‘I can get involved to help at least one child in this county that might not have help.’”

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WBAT to add FM transmitter

By Ed Breen

Marion’s oldest electronic voice is about to speak in a new way to an expanded audience.

WBAT, owned and operated by Hoosier AM/FM, is going to add an FM transmitter to its broadcast signal and will be airing simultaneously on both AM and FM frequencies, beginning July 4.

“This is an opportunity to both broaden our audience and better serve our customers,” said Joel Pyle, vice president and market manager of Hoosier AM/FM in Marion.

WBAT’s AM signal will still be broadcast at 1400 on the dial, but will add an FM signal, which will be found at 105.5 on the FM radio dial. The signal will extend deeper into the nine counties surrounding Grant County.

The station will continue to stream some of its programming – including “Good Morning Grant County” and local sports – to digital devices like smart phones and computers.

Pyle, who directs the company’s four stations in Marion, said the present program schedule and music format will be maintained. The lone change will be the addition of the “simulcast” of WBAT on both the AM and FM broadcast frequencies.

He said it will provide a larger area of broadcast coverage for the local station’s coverage of news, weather and sports.

WBAT has been on the air

in Marion since June, 1947, and is one of four Marion stations, all located at 820 S. Pennsylvania St., broadcasting to Marion area audiences. The others are WCJC, 92.1 FM, which plays a country music format, WXXC 106.9, a contemporary music station, and WMRI ESPN at 860 AM.

WBAT’s original studio was on the third floor of the Resneck Building at Third and Adams streets in downtown Marion. In 1965, it moved its studio and transmitter to a site at Second Street and Miller Avenue in west Marion, where the transmission tower remains.

When Mid-American Broadcasting acquired WMRI and WGOM from Bomar Broadcasting in 2004, all four studios and business functions were consolidated in the Pennsylvania Street location.

WBAT was Marion’s first station and was soon joined on the air by WMRI in early 1948. WMRI originally was owned by the Chronicle

Publishing Co., then the owners of the Marion Chronicle and the Marion Leader-Tribune newspapers. WMRI was a pioneer in FM radio broadcasting in central Indiana and later switched to an AM broadcast signal and created WGOM as an FM station. The WGOM call letters were dropped several years ago when that station redefined itself as WXXC 106.9.

WBAT was started by John Bone, a Kokomo native who moved to Marion, and originally broadcast on an assigned frequency of 1600 AM. It moved to 1400 on the AM dial about 1950. Bone sold the station in 1952 to George Ramp, a Marion auto dealer. It was later owned by Central Broadcasting, a Richmond company, from 1955 to 1988, when it was purchased by Mid-America Radio Group, an Indiana company owned by David Keister in Martinsville. Hoosier AM/FM acquired the four Marion stations in 2008.

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