

Editor Bios



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THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Since its start in 2002, the *Weekly Newspaper Group* has worked to build a reputation capable of attracting the talented journalists who now make up the *Weekly Newspaper Group* editorial staff. All live in the heart of the area they write about, and each brings professionalism and personality to the beat they cover.

Regan White - Charlotte Weekly Editor

editor@thecharlotteweekly.com

A graduate of Charlotte Latin School and Yale University, Regan joined CW as a staff writer in February 2005. She quickly became CW's features editor – specializing in local news about medical advances, nonprofit organizations and intriguing profiles – and launched her own popular, biweekly humor column, “Regan’s Rant.” Now, as CW's editor, Regan still writes while helming an all-star staff, doling out assignments, editing copy and fine-tuning layout to ensure the quality, community news content CW readers have come to expect. She can be heard most Friday afternoons as a guest on WIXE-AM.

Sean O’Connell - Associate Editor, Weekly Newspapers; Arts & Entertainment Editor

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Sean joined CW shortly after its launch in 2002. As our Arts & Entertainment editor/movie critic, he interviews celebrities, reviews movies, walks the red carpet for premieres – and talks about it all not just on our pages but also on WBTV News 3 and on WBT-AM's morning news program. A member of the Online Film Critics Society and the Broadcast Film Critics Association, Sean has earned recognition from the North Carolina Press Association.

C. Jemal Horton - Sports Editor

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Before arriving at CW in February 2006, Jemal worked for The Washington Post, The Indianapolis Star and The Charlotte Observer. He was North Carolina's and Indiana's first African-American general sports columnist. In addition to earning numerous awards, including the prestigious Top 10 in Enterprise Reporting by the Associated Press Sports Editors, Jemal has made guest appearances on ESPN,

ESPNNEWS, FoxSports, NBA TV and ESPN Radio. Regional and local radio listeners can catch him weekly as a co-host on WFNZ's “Primetime with the Packman.”

Pat Higgins - Union County Weekly Editor

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Community news that happens right in their own backyards and deeply affects their lives. Pat's been a journalist since she was 19, cutting her teeth on political reporting at the 1972 Democratic National Convention sharing a press box with notorious Chicago 6 activists Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin. Pat moved on to the Middletown, N.Y. Times Herald Record, covering the West Point Military Academy, and the Chicago Tribune, where she covered everything from communities and courts to county government and celebrities. A side trip through public relations resulted in nine years working with Microsoft, Barq's Root Beer and others. A Syracuse University graduate, when Pat's not pursuing pesky sources, she's helping the American Diabetes Association/Central Carolinas as a board member.

Anna Dykema - Education Editor

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Anna took on CW's education beat full time in 2007 after freelancing for CW and UCW for a year. A Charlotte native and the daughter of educators, Anna graduated from Charlotte Christian School in 1999 and from Carson-Newman College in 2003, with a major in Mass Communications and a minor in Journalism. Today Anna reports on education options, covers issues related to school growth, and profiles the remarkable achievements of local students, teachers and schools.

Heidi Billotto - Food Writer / Restaurant Critic

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Heidi has authored the popular Culinary Corner, a column of restaurant reviews and food features, since CW's debut. Between columns, she teaches cooking classes and operates a catering business. Prior to writing for CW, Heidi was The Leader's food editor for 10 years and wrote the “Dining Out” column for Charlotte Theatre Magazine. In the early 1990s, she hosted “Easy but Elegant Cooking” on public television and has since appeared on WBTV, WBT radio and WFAE public radio, including “Charlotte Talks.”