

tom steele

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Lehigh University, 2005

- Bachelor of arts in journalism
- Bachelor of arts in economics

SKILLS

- Associated Press style
- Backgrounding
- Copy editing
- Fact-checking
- Headline writing
- Line editing
- Rewrite
- SEO
- Traffic analytics tools

AWARDS

- Named *The Dallas Morning News'* "Unsung Hero of the Year" in 2022.
- Member of *The Dallas Morning News'* team covering the July 7, 2016, police ambush that won top honors from the National Headliner Awards and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

EXPERIENCE

The Dallas Morning News

Deputy Breaking News Editor (October 2021 – October 2023)

- Helped manage and edit a staff of up to 10 reporters and interns focused on breaking and trending news.
- Led initial coverage of major breaking news stories, including a mass shooting at an outlet mall, a fatal collision at an air show and a hostage situation at a synagogue.
- Guided reporters working on features, enterprise stories and projects; identified notable stories to assign to reporters.
- Trained reporters and interns; provided reporting advice and help putting stories in a local context, along with other professional guidance.
- Coordinated with audience producers to create eye-grabbing alerts, craft engaging headlines and promote stories online.
- Served as night liaison for print team; worked with planning team to ensure stories were budgeted appropriately.

Breaking News Producer (February 2016 – October 2021)

- Wrote dozens of stories each month covering breaking news in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Texas and beyond, maintaining a sharp eye for what topics connected with readers.
- Consistently led the newsroom in readership metrics, including page views, returning visitors, engaged time and subscription conversions.
- Performed rewrite duties on important stories, including a catastrophic winter storm and protests in the wake of George Floyd's death.
- Filled in as a breaking news editor as needed.

Backfield Editor (March 2012 – February 2016)

- Determined article selection and placement for the newspaper's state, national, world and business sections.
- Edited wire and metro stories under intense deadline pressure.

Assistant iPad Editor (January 2011 – March 2012)

- Launched and maintained a curated iPad app.

Copy Editor (March 2007 – January 2011)

- Edited stories for style, grammar, clarity, fairness and accuracy.
- Maintained dallasnews.com on nights and weekends.

The Florida Times-Union

Copy Editor (October 2005 – March 2007)

- Edited stories for style, grammar, clarity, fairness and accuracy.
- Designed, edited and proofread nine community newspapers.