

Heather Denniss

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Professional Summary

Award-winning journalist and editor with 30+ years of experience in news writing, editing, page design, and headline creation. Skilled in storytelling, arts and culture coverage, and editorial leadership. Published author with strong grammar, style, and design sensibility. Known for accuracy, creativity, and mentorship.

Experience

The Blade – Toledo, OH | Copy Editor & Freelance Writer | 1994–Present

- Edit and design newspaper pages with strong grammar, AP style, and layout skills
- Write weekly “Classics” arts column (2021–2025) featuring music and cultural previews/reviews
- Create headlines and cutlines; select and adapt national/international wire content
- Former Opinion section designer/editor (6 years)
- Mentor to new staff; awarded by AP and Society of Professional Journalists for headlines

Toledo Legal News – Toledo, OH | Reporter | 1993

- Compiled and formatted court records and public documents for publication

Sentinel-Tribune – Bowling Green, OH | Freelance Reporter | 1993

- Reported local news and community feature stories

Herald Newspapers – Sylvania & West Toledo, OH | Editor | 1992–1993

- Wrote features, designed pages, and handled photography for weekly papers

Education

University of Toledo – B.A. in General Communication, Magna Cum Laude, 1992

Publications & Writing

- Sherman’s March to the Sea – Published Novel
- Multiple published short stories
- Novel in progress

Awards

- Associated Press
- Society of Professional Journalists

Skills

- Editing
- Feature Writing
- AP Style
- Layout & Design
- Arts Reporting
- Headline Creation
- Mentorship
- Deadline Management
- Inclusivity Awareness