

Personal Statement:

At the start of this year, I was a Print Editor-in-Chief for my school newspaper *The Pitch*. I had worked my way up from a staff writer to being a Print News Editor, and eventually to Print Editor-in-Chief. And print was all I had ever known. So for my first three years as a Pitch staff member, the concept of “multimedia” was foreign to me.

But this year, I expanded into creating online content and worked extensively on story packaging and boosting multimedia content to go along with our print content. My dive into online wasn’t planned - it was more of a happy accident. I had written a breaking news story about our county’s superintendent resigning that needed to be published as quickly as possible, and all of our online editors were busy or unavailable. To get the article online, I asked one of my online colleagues for the password to WordPress, macgyvered the story until it looked about right, and the rest was history.

From there, I started playing around with WordPress, learning about all the different ways we could incorporate multimedia into stories, much more than just a few basic photos I was used to working with print. I started using videos, photo galleries, polls, graphs, and audio in the stories I published.

With the elements unlocked by SNO Sites, our web hosting platform, I also explored using long-form stories and infobox stories, which were both story templates we had rarely, if ever, used before, always sticking to the simple full-width template. Even on stories that I didn’t write, I helped to lay out better and more cohesive story packages like designing a long-form story reviewing products on TikTok shop and a long-form immersive photo gallery about our school play ‘Les Miserables.’ I used infoboxes for innovative online content like a news brief article which would have been thousands of words long for the six briefs but made much easier to read using the animated accordion infobox style.

This year, I also led a new effort in our newspaper to expand into live audio broadcasting, which we accomplished through The Pitch Radio Network, broadcasting certain sports games on the platform Mixlr. We did live play-by-play this spring for baseball, softball, and lacrosse games including playoff games and I have incorporated some of these live audios into articles like for softball where we covered the game live and then I wrote the game story to go along with it.

My work with multimedia content was also the driving factor behind my promotion next year to Editor-in-Chief, leading both our print and online content, a position that has not existed in five years. WordPress is a confusing and complicated platform. And for the past few years, the extent of our multimedia online was a couple of extra images and a pull quote in some articles. But throughout this year, I have learned about the limitless possibilities of publishing content online, using embeds, and incorporating more than just text and a photo.

Submissions:



Members of Bryan Doukouris' campaign team boost up another team member to allow him to hang up a poster. Campaigning occurred up until candidates' first speeches. (Seyun Park)



Watch as current SMOB Sami Saeed announces the two finalists to the crowd at Watkins Mill High School. Video by Seyun Park

SMOB finalists selected

wjpitch.com/top-stories/2024/02/15/smob-finalists-selected-2/

This article was about the election of our county's two finalists for Student Member of the Board of Education. I attended the nominating convention, where I took multiple photos embedded throughout the story and also recorded the moment the two finalists were announced, embedding it as a video into the story to capture the emotion of the moment and the excitement of the crowd. I wrote and published this piece by the day after the convention happened.



MoCo News Updates

| | |
|--|---|
| McKnight to receive \$1.3 million in separation agreement with Board | + |
| Woodward High School project partially delayed | + |
| Board punts on potential financial literacy requirement | + |
| Board approves preliminary changes to homework policy | + |
| MCPS to host in-person forums on next superintendent | + |
| MCPS hosts SALC conference | + |

McKnight to receive \$1.3 million, other MCPS news updates

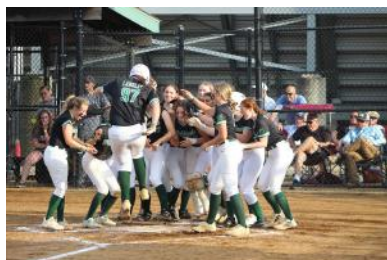
wjpitch.com/top-stories/2024/03/22/moconewsupdates/

For this story, I wrote and compiled six briefs about news going on in our school system and county. I attended the meeting of the Board of Education where I took pictures and notes and interviewed the Student Member of the Board. I animated the six briefs together using an SNO Infobox with the accordion style and embedded multiple relevant images throughout.

Big-swinging Strbak powers softball to walk-off Clarksburg win

wjpitch.com/top-stories/2024/04/07/big-swinging-strbak-powers-softball-to-walk-off-clarksburg-win/

This was a game that almost went very awry for the WJ Wildcats. After holding a 9-0 lead, the Clarksburg Coyotes surged back to take a 10-9 lead before sophomore Addie Strbak walked off the game in the bottom of the seventh inning. With this story, I captured the moment both through word and image, embedding multiple images throughout and adding a video for the reader to get a true sense of the atmosphere.



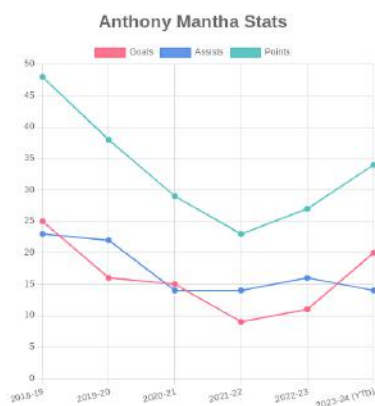
Back-and-forth game sends softball into first-ever state semifinal

wjpitch.com/top-stories/2024/05/20/back-and-forth-game-sends-softball-into-first-ever-state-semifinal/

For this story, we live broadcasted play-by-play commentary for the game, which is embedded at the end of the article. In addition, during the game, I was also taking pictures, which I used to assemble a photo gallery in the article of 12 photos and also conducted post-game interviews. This story was also written and published online in a matter of hours as the state semifinal was the next day.

Future uncertain for Capitals following trade deadline

wjpitch.com/top-stories/2024/03/11/future-uncertain-for-capitals-following-trade-deadline/



This story was an in-depth analysis of the Washington Capitals hockey team following their actions at the NHL trade deadline. Utilizing SNO's long-form story template, we divided the story into different sections each about different trade deadline actions and inserted infographics like graphs for player points over time to give a better picture of players' performances. We also used pictures taken at Caps games and a poll to ask readers what they thought of the Capitals' trade deadline actions.