

Awards *from A1*

could lead to an award,” said *The Sentinel* General Manager Gary Manly. “So, it’s nice to get feedback from somebody who has no experience with our paper.”

All in all, *The Sentinel* collected a pair each of second- and third-place finishes as well as one first-place prize.

If a bit apprehensive to check the results, sports and education reporter Zach Silva said he was thrilled upon learning the outcome of the award ceremony.

“Well, [previous *Sentinel* editor] Caitlyn May and I had been talking. We knew this was coming, we knew they were gonna announce yesterday. I had a feeling we’d win at least one, that was my hope. Like, ‘Wouldn’t that be cool if we won one award?’ I scrambled to my computer ... and I saw



Zach Silva



Caitlyn May

“Our whole goal was to show these kids are just like any other kids in our community and they’ve just had some troubles or struggles along the way.”

— Zach Silva, *Cottage Grove Sentinel*

five results and thought, ‘That can’t be, there must be a mistake.’ I saw Caitlyn and we won two, and I won two as well and ... it was just exciting,” said Silva.

For their lone first-place finish, in the Best Educational Coverage category, Silva and May

were recognized for their article “Bad Kids Part IV,” one in a collection of articles covering the struggles and triumphs of students and staff at Al Kennedy High School during the 2017-18 school year.

“We put so much time and effort into that entire series ... Caitlyn and

I spent the entire year at Kennedy. We would go there basically a couple times a month and talk to students,” said Silva.

“Our whole goal of being there was to show these kids are just like any other kids that are in our community and they’ve just had some troubles or

struggles along the way.”

The two *Sentinel* journalists also took home the third-place award in the same category. Their story, “Guns and our Schools,” took a look at gun violence and safety preparedness at local schools in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting in Parkland, Flo., in February 2018.

Coming in second in the Best Local Column category, Silva was rewarded for his work in “Farewell to Hayward Field,” a personal retrospective from a Eugene native celebrating the history of Hayward Field while pondering the futuristic new facility’s place in the community.

To complete his haul, Silva received another third-place award in Best Sports Story for “The Long Road from Cottage Grove to Corvallis,” chronicling the life and career of long-time Oregon State Beavers broad-

caster and former Cottage Grove resident Mike Parker.

As a paper, *The Sentinel* news staff was awarded one final second-place finish in the category of Best Special Section or Issue for their Cottage Grove Community Guidebook, an annual look at the community covering city government, school and local organization information.

“Our readers tell us what a great job we’re doing and maybe when we don’t do a good job, but ... we’re back on the course that we should be on as a community newspaper, so that’s the important thing,” said Manly. “To be getting from our readers telling us ‘I like how it looks, I like the stories I’m reading,’ that translates into lots of good things. We’re going in the right direction because our readers are telling us so.”

Road *from A1*

a suitable compromise could be found.

“We’re trying to think of things where we could still utilize the grant money, but maybe have a more thoughtful process of how we spend that money and if the community has support for it,” said County Commissioner Heather Buch.

At issue for many resi-

dents is the proposed cutting of 61 trees along the stretch, which in some cases provide privacy or even protection from out-of-control vehicles.

“I don’t need a car at 55 miles an hour that loses control ... come crashing through my yard and hitting one of my kids,” said resident Jim Poetzl at the Feb. 12 meeting.

A second phase of the proposed project would also widen the road with

two 11-foot travel lanes and four-foot shoulders on both sides, a modification that many fear could lead to more frequent speeding and crashes due to a false perception of safety by drivers.

The July 29 public meeting is set to find solutions to these concerns.

“We hope that we get a good crowd of interested folks so we can come up with a comprehensive,

community-based solution,” said Buch.

Discussions with the grantors of the fund have hinted at the possibility of using the money in ways outside the original earmarks.

“Perhaps there’s some leeway there,” Buch said. “We’ll see what the community has as ideas and see what we could possibly fit in this grant application.”

Options have included reducing the amount of trees on the cut list or planting trees farther from the shoulder.

Buch, county representatives from the planning department and residents will be in attendance at the meeting. The format will give residents the op-

portunity to brainstorm in small groups with county officials to find solutions.

“I really want people to try to think outside the box [about] what we can do to improve their road that provides safety, but also aesthetics at the same time,” said Buch.

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