Epic chance The student section screams with joy when basketball manager senior Bailey Seay was allowed to play and scored during the last district basketball game on Feb. 16. "I absolutely went crazy getting to see him do that his senior year," senior Daniel Griffin said. photo by Rosa Peters

## Under the sea

Juniors Nick Acosta and freshman Matthew Neufeld blow bubbles during halftime at the last home football game on Nov. 9. Traditionally, the Pride of the Tribe used this last home halftime to put on an epic performance, which included tales from Disney this year.


## Powderpuff

power
Seniors Jasmine Ochoa and Evelin Castillo Derma attempt to grab junior Jennifer Martinez Davila's flag during the NHS powderpuff game on Oct. 22. The inaugural event funded chemo packages for cancer patients.
photo by Eva Neufeld

## Tepee 2016 volume 74

## Seminole High School

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www.seminoleisd.net
Indians and Maidens District 4-4A
September enrollment 693



## Pink for cause

With excitement the senior girls huddle up minutes before the powder puff football game and chant in game resulting in a $35-35$ tie on Oct. 22. "The huddle was one of the best feelings ever," senior Jasmine Ochoa said. "Never will I forget a moment like that with the senior girls." photo by Eva Neufeld


## Strong to finish

Freshmen Amanda
Villalva and Taylor Mc-
Gehee cross the bridge at Mae Simmons Park in Lubbock in the final part of the regional course on Oct. 26. The Maidens placed 18th in their second straight appearance at the region meet

## From the sky

Skydiver Pete Lutz from Skydive West Texas floats to the Wigwam Stadium on homecom ing on Sept. 11 during the national anthem. The exhibition helped commemorate 9-11 and honor veterans.
photo by Rosa Peter


# ARGERTHAN Students face tasks of busy school year 

The school year loomed larger than life as students faced the tasks ahead. The novelty of treading in the high school for the first time both frightened and intrigued freshmen.
"I wasn't too nervous when I first got here to high school," freshman Nat Little said, "However, I was looking forward and idealizing what was to come these next four years here."

Larger than life schedules with family and financial obligations took up much of student time.
"I work because financially I love to be independent," senior Mikaela Stokes said,
"I like to have some spending money for myself when I need it."
Sophomore Isaac Garcia took a different view of working.
"I work alongside my father at the courthouse," Garcia said. "I like to help out my dad because he is always busy, and it is just a nice thing to do for him and pay him back."

What students spent their money on varied but food loomed large on their agendas. Senior Kenzie Ivins enjoyed Just A Bite on a very specific day.
"I love eating at Just A Bite on Thursdays," Ivins said, "They have this awesome steak buffet which is absolutely amazing."

Senior Chris Arzate enjoyed anywhere his taste buds took him.
"I can eat anywhere and everywhere," Arzate said, "I enjoy switching up my palette."

Going out to eat was one leisure activity that students enjoyed in their free time. Freshman Amy Schultz spent her free time quietly and away from technology as much as possible.
"Reading is my favorite way to spend my free time," Schultz said, "I love reading for fun because it is peaceful and also getting lost in a book is a great adventure."
Students also spent time daily preparing for their futures, but that didn't always mean they knew what to do.
"I am honestly scared of growing up because it is what your life is going to end up like," junior Roselyn Saiz said, "If you're not happy in the end then there is no real point."
For seniors, that future was looming large whether they wanted it or not.
"It hasn't hit me yet that I am a senior already," Stokes said, "However,
in some ways I am ready to graduate, but in other ways I am not because I have a bad case of senioritis, and I procrastinate a lot."
As the year wound down with spring sports, awards and prom, graduation became larger than life, prompting senior Shelbie Ruiz to think about how being independent would affect her.
"I am not sure what college I will be going to," Ruiz said. "However what really is weighing down on me is living on my own. It puts a lot of pressure on me to not mess up and show that I can be independent."
Though life seemed larger at the beginning, as the year wound down, the time seemed smaller for students who had a lot to accomplish before it ended.

Chewsing Chinese
Junior Drayton Perez and freshman Ivan Neufeld eat lunch at the Chinese buffet on Nov. 15. "It is a great place to eat, and it doesn't cost a lot," Perez said. photo by Frankie Resendez



He played for a purpose. He dedicated all his free time to his music. When other students were out, he stayed focused on what he was made to do, his big dream. To see the light glint off the strings as the beautiful sounds made his audience feel things they'd never felt before; it was why he had always worked.
Junior Layne Alvarado dedicated his time to what he deemed the most worthy of causes. He hoped to become a music minister and had not wasted any time in making it happen. He did everything he could to ready himself for what was to come.
"I'm taking band to help me reach my goal of music ministry," Alvarado said. "It helps me expand my musical knowledge and teaches me how to work with more instruments."

In the same way, senior Jayne Hamblin took every class she could to pave her path toward marine biology.
"I'm taking AP biology and AP English because I want to be a marine biologist," Hamblin said. "Biology will obviously be useful, and English can help with writing lab reports."

Sophomore Kendall Taubert, however, wasn't exactly sure what she wanted to do as career. She still had certain goals, though, even if she didn't know what would take her there.
"I'm not sure what I want to do yet career-wise," Taubert said. "All I know is, I want to be successful enough that I will never have to buy Great Value brand."
Even though not everyone was sure of what he or she wanted do in the future, they tried to prepare to the best of their abilities. They tried their best to meet their personal set of standards on every report card.
"To me a bad grade is an 88 on a report card and a 60 on a paper," junior Alyssa Carnes said. "I think they are bad grades because I know I can do better, and I always want to do my best on everything."
Students in concurrent classes tried to get ahead by earning both high school and college credit at the same time, gaining an economic advantage over regular college students.
"I think concurrent classes definitely give you an advantage over other students," junior Yesenia Olivas said. "They prepare you for what lies ahead by giving you a small taste of what college will be like and by teaching responsibility."
Whether the goal was music ministry, marine biology, or going into a career, academics took students there as they took advanced placement, concurrent or elective classes which prepared them for their big dreams.



The saying was "membership has its privileges", but first came planning, fundraising, motivation, competition and work.

Fundraisers were often a prerequisite before organizations could reach their goals.
"We participate in fundraisers that sell food, candy, and snacks" A Cappella choir senior Jasmine Ochoa said. "This helps us raise money for trips, and also some of it goes to our choir fund."
Clubs came up with fundraisers based on what they planned for the year.
"We want to do a candy cane sale in the future and sell ornaments," Art Club President Emily Medrano said. "We also want to do something for Easter and St. Patrick's Day; we want to try to paint different designs that go with the holiday."

Often organizations raised funds for purely service reasons.
"I am most proud of the Kidsteam project because we give back to kids," StuCo treasurer senior Kelea Pool said, "We give back to those who are underprivileged and need the most aid."

Other organizations worked toward competition.
"We are really competitive within other schools and even individually with ourselves," band senior Cassandra Schultz said. "We compete in
many different things such as marching band UIL, UIL concert and lots of individual things."

Whether going to contest or collecting cans for the underprivileged during the holidays, organizations took their missions seriously while still having fun.
"We are serious because there is a pre-existing representation of how student council should be, and we have to live up to that," senior StuCo President Abby Navarro said. "We are also fun because we host little fun events for others like the Christmas door decorating and the Thanksgiving coloring contest."
The rewards of membership paid off in a variety of ways including experience, skills and teamwork.
"I think people look at us as pretty professional because we are in our fancy red uniforms," Cosmetology SkillsUSA senior Emily Letkeman said. "We also attend etiquette classes when we go to Washington. It is really crazy how professional we have to be, and I hope that the public can see that."
Often a groups' actions were in the public eye most of the time, and it had to learn to represent the right way.
"I think the public views us as just some pretty girls on the sideline when in reality we are more than that," junior cheer captain Kaitlyn Hogue said. "We work just as hard or even more that others out there."
Although a certain amount of pride went with membership, organizations welcomed new members.
"Organizations are not better than others," Medrano said. "No organization is higher than others. We are all different, and we do different things and to say that one organization is better than the other is wrong, and we have to respect that."
Regardless of the projects or competitions required for the year, the success of an organization was only as good as its members.

## Christmas caroling

Jazz Brigade senior Sadie Wheeler performs during the choir's Christmas concert on Dec. 14. "I enjoy the Christmas concert because Jazz Brigade can actually interact with the crowd and have some really fun dance moves," Wheeler said. photo by Sarah Sumpter



## Chemo caring

NHS junior Nikki Loewen helps assemble packages for cancer patients on Nov. 23. "I like this community service because it is a great opportunity for us to show cancer patients that we care and are there for them." Loewen said.
photo by Eva Neufeld
"Student Council promotes membership because it is an organization that includes the school as a whole to participate in things together." StuCo Committee

## Coordinator

Cade Thomas-10

## Organizing members

Student council officers seniors Jasmine Ochoa, Melissa Ramos, Ethan Ruiz, Abby
Navarro and sophomore Cade Thomas inform representatives about upcoming events at an Oct. 6 meeting during assembly time. "These meetings are necessary to keep them up with things to come and just to keep this organization running smoothly," Navarro said.

## ELITE MEMBERSHIP


"NHS is an amazing organization if you like to help the community." Nancy Dyck-12
"Student council is great because it gives chances to students to participate and be social." Nicolas Garcia-12
"Students should join band because it is fun, and if you pay attention, it is an easy process." Dusty Barron-9

Whether it was striving for greatness or simply trying to get better, athletes played on fields and courts, ran and jumped around tracks and hit balls or lifted weights or dove into water in search of a monumental season.
"I'm working on overcoming my weakness by practicing the right motion and grip until it feels natural," tennis junior Debbie Froese said. "All I have to think about under pressure is playing intelligently and aggressively."
Monumental applied not only to improving, but also to overcoming.
"After blowing out my knee the year before, I had no idea how well I would be able to function out on the court," senior volleyball libero Lindsey Wimmer said. "That was my biggest obstacle and most definitely my biggest fear." With perseverance and determination anything seemed possible. This was true of the Maiden basketball team making it back to the regional tournament.
"Our turning point was at the end of district," senior post Kelea Pool said.
"Once we made it to the playoffs, everyone stepped up their game, and we all started to work better to achieve our main goal."

Senior Madi Werner saw her third trip to the state powerlifting meet and
a state championship in her weight class.
"I am grateful for my team and my coaches," Werner said. "If there was a moment I was able to relive, it would be state powerlifting with them."

Werner also qualified for the regional swim meet in both relay and individual events.
"Nothing will be the same after Madi leaves," Aqua Tribe junior Faith Klassen said. "She was my hero. She was the one person I looked up to for the past three years, and it's all over now."

Athletes continued to challenge themselves, like junior pole vaulter Alex Hindman, who broke the school record with 15 feet at the Brownwood meet on March 4.
"I set my goals before the season even started," Hindman said. "I knew I had the record as soon as my hips got over the bar, and I did a fist pump on the way down."
For sophomore quarterback Alex Menchaca, the challenges were monumental as he became the last in a series of quarterbacks for the varsity football team.
"I applied myself as much as I could because I knew my team would be counting on me," Menchaca said. "I knew what will be expected of my next season, so I needed to give it my all for my team."
The monumental moments of all the seasons made the year epic, but the relationships on those teams were also important.
"This season will always be memorable because of my teammates whom I call family," Pool said. "All the laughs and tears we've shared together have created a bond that is very special to my heart."

## Leaping elite

Sophomore Logan Jaquez receives her gold medal for the 300-hurdles in Andrews on April 15 as the only SHS athlete to take a first place at district. "I was so proud of the goal I set that day," Jaquez said. "I am so grateful to have experienced such a feeling."

"It's great knowing that all my hard work and dedication has paid off. I had an epic year in powerlifting."

Madi Werner-12

## Epic effort

Senior Madi Werner dead lifts 280 pounds at the home meet on Jan. 30, placing first in her 105 -pound weight class. "It took a lot of effort," Werner said. "I'm glad I accomplished what I did." photo by Truda Klassen

## MONUMENIAL MOMENIUM



## Monumental moment

Junior Aaron Robledo tees off during the state golf meet at Onion Creek in Austin on April 26 where he finished in a tie for sixth individually. "I could have done better," Robledo said, "but I still have another chance." photo by Teena Wimmer
"Our strength was our height. We were taller than most teams we played which helped significantly." Luke Wimmer-12 Indian basketball
"Our strength was the team we were. Without that bond we wouldn't have played as well." Kelea Pool-12 Maiden basketball
"My team and I have great composure. Together we are strong and we do not let anything get to us and it has really helped us." Melanie Sendejo-12 Maiden softball

## Tegendary <br> Individuals mold own identities

Becoming legendary had more to do with one's own identity than anything else. Individual sparks made a student unique.
"I'm different from most of my classmates because while my classmates are struggling with their identities, I know who I am," sophomore Cheyenne Munguia said. "I don't need anyone's approval."
For junior Lauren Franco, identity came from her own ideas and beliefs.
"I am an individual, just like everyone else," Franco said. "I like to believe that my thoughts and opinions are unique and special from everyone else's."
Senior Miracle Lerma's identity came with the hope that she would be remembered in a positive way.
"I try to set a good example for the underclassmen," Lerma said. "Hopefully I will be remembered for that."

Freshman Thomas Letkeman didn't see himself as a legend.
"I'm not working to be remembered," Letkeman said. "I don't really care about other people's opinions of me."

For senior Ethan Ruiz, the legacy he left behind was bigger than just high school accomplishments.
"I'm not working to become legendary because I don't care if I am known for high school achievements," Ruiz said. "I would rather be remembered for something more significant, like an important job."

Even if they weren't working for legendary status, stu-
dents were still proud of what made each one an individual.
"I don't let people push me into things I don't want to do," junior Aaron Espinoza said. "I'm strong-willed enough to let people know that."
Becoming unique individuals often came from unique examples or mentors in a student's life.
"My biggest role models are my parents," Franco said. "They have done nothing but devote their time to me and help me become the best me."
Freshman Alexandra Wall, on the other hand, looked inside herself for inspiration.
"I don't have a role model," Wall said. "I don't really need one. I think I am strong enough in myself that a role model just isn't necessary."
Personal strength was a trait that was built over time and through experience for Munguia.
"High school has matured me in many ways," Munguia said. "I used to take everything to heart and freak out about it, and now I am a little more mellow and stronger in myself."
Regardless of what molded the individual, they were often remembered as legendary just by being themselves.

## Pig perfection

Junior Jarrot Foote gets his pig ready for the swine show during the Gaines Country Stock Show on Jan. 13. "Most of the preparation happens behind the scenes," Foote said. "You have to condition them to get them used to the ring and make sure they maintain a good weight."
photo by Truda Klassen



## Guitar guy

Sophomore Aaron Alvarez-Salazar practices his guitar during his lesson time with Assistant Band Director Nathaneal Holmes. "I wanted to learn to play guitar because I love music, and I knew the guitar would challenge me in new and fun ways," Alvarez-Salazar said.
photo by Aaron Espinoza

## Gaming guru

In September, senior Neal Froese edits a video for his collaborative gaming channel on YouTube called Broken Controller Gaming which he and five other seniors started over the sum mer. "Usually a video with new footage and audio takes about 30 minutes to edit," Froese said.
photo by Skyler Franklin

## "We started Broken Controller Gaming

 because we thought it would be something fun that we could learn from."Neal Froese-12

## LEGENDARYTALES


"I passed out in the middle of the doctor's office. I think they will remember me for a while." Jude Gomez-9

"I shaved the side of my head to show support for my uncle with cancer." Selena Sircy-10
"I won state occupational skills in SkillsUSA. I got a medal, a plaque and a flag for the school."
Savannah Gonzales-11

## Year ends with parade of outstanding memories

Eventually every story came to an end. Legacies were left, monumental moments passed, big dreams were closer to coming true, and students realized that sometimes events were larger than life.
Graduation was one of those larger than life events.
"I'm going to miss my high school days," senior Brandon Long said. "I didn't think time would go by so fast."
It's hard to let go of the goodbyes of individuals who have left their mark like baseball Coach Mike Browning who retired.
"It is more than an honor to be graduating with Coach Browning," Long said. "The man is a legend, and it's a great privilege to go down in history as the last team he coached."
The epic year was about bonds created throughout a high school career.
"When we're gone on theater trips for competition the feeling of family is the most important," senior Blayne Childers said. "There will be times where we will be gone up to a week at a time, and theater family fills that sense of loneliness. While on these trips you're never alone ."
Part of the epic experience was the elite membership in organizations.
"People like to feel represented to higher authorities," senior student body President Abby Navarro. "In cases like this, their opinions matter and their inclusion is important because we are the future."
Athletes left legacies behind, some of them legendary like state champion senior Madi Werner.
"I am proud of my accomplishments in powerlifting," Werner said. "To me powerlifting was very important because I set a goal after my freshman year. It is why I worked so hard."
Larger than life events shaped student memories like the "Starry Night" prom.
"I loved prom," junior Grecia Hermosillo Ortiz said. "For my first prom it was most definitely what I expected. It was overall an amazing night that I would love to experience again."
Each memory might have been formed and remembered differently, but the legacy of the year would always be EPIC.



## Epically waterlogged memory

Seniors pose for photos after jumping off the high dive platform after senior review on May 17. "It didn't hit me that I was actually graduating until I jumped off the plat," senior Vanessa Perez said. "It was such a stress reliever." photo by Kree Ellison


Monumental look
Senior Branson Moore
checks the lie of a hole at Onion Creek in Austin during the state golf tournament on April 26. "I was really focused during this period of time, and I'm just really glad that I had the chance to attend the state tournament.
photo by Dusty Miller

## Viewing history

Band senior Neal Froese and junior Nick Acosta listen to a tour guide as they visit the JFK Memorial in Dallas on May 15 on band trip. "I had so much fun, it was exciting, and it was a great weekend overall.' photo by Jordan Lashaway
"Prom is one of those moments that is unforgettable." -Rosemary Reimer-11
"'May the fourth be with you' is a catchy phrase especially on national Star Wars day."
-Aaron Espinoza-1 1

April 16, 2016



## Leaving a legacy

Counselors' secretary and wife Brenda Browning and daughter Morgan Browning look on as Coach Mike Browning is recognized on April 26 after his last baseball game in his long tenure with SHS. "My favorite part of it all was just helping the student and players overcome challenges that presented themselves," Browning said.


Going for gold
Junior Savannah Gonzales hands off to sophomore Makayla Duncan in their gold medal performance in the sprint relay at the Special Olympics on April 30. "I loved running the relay because I like trying my best, and it let me be fast," Gonzales said. photo by Sarah Sumpter

## Dedication

## Coach Mike Browning

has given over three decades teaching, accumulating 490 wins.
Thanks for the great run, Coach!

