

# HENDERSON INDEPENDENT

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## State track

Emily Sullivan is a three-time state champion, while Dylan Novak finished a respectable 9th and 11th in his events. P. 10

## New barber in town

Like the prodigal son, Taylor Peulen has returned to Henderson to take over as its new barber. P. 4



## Reinhardt finishes 5th at state

Senior golfer MaKenna Reinhardt finished her career in a two-way tie for 5th last Wednesday. P.11

# STATE CHAMPIONS!

## Giants softball makes history, wins LS-H's first team championship

By Rachel Miller  
Editor

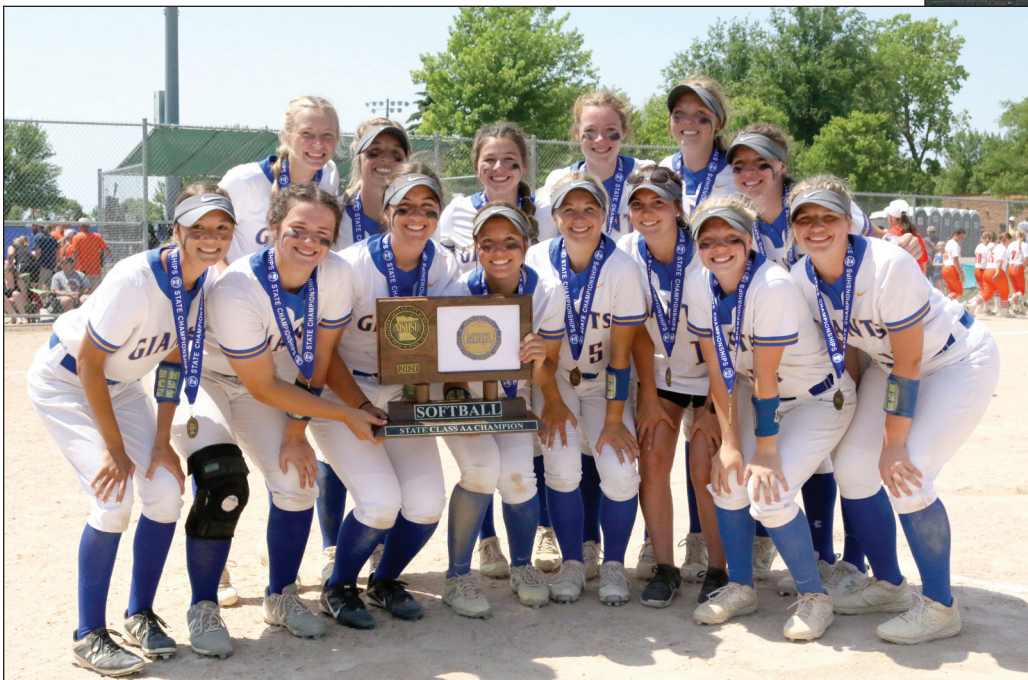
The 2021 Class AA State Softball Championship, held Wednesday, June 16 at Mankato's Caswell Park, ended in screaming and tears for the Le Sueur-Henderson Giants — screams of excitement and tears of overwhelming joy, that is.

The Giants were leading 7-3 as St. Charles stepped to the plate to start the seventh inning in the state championship game. Giants pitcher Chloe Brandt walked the first batter, followed by three

singles, resulting in a run and narrowing the lead to 7-4.

With bases loaded and no outs, the pressure was on. But the Giants have the rare ability to remain calm under pressure, and in rapid succession earned a strikeout, a pop out, and another strikeout to end the inning, and in doing so, earned not only the team's first state championship, but the Le Sueur-Henderson School District's first team championship.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP  
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## Treasures in Town turns 15

The Le Sueur downtown business celebrated its volunteers last week, as it hit its goal of donating \$200,000 to the local communities. P. 4

## Sauerkraut Days

The annual celebration is back this weekend, with all the fun and sauerkraut you can handle. P. 5

## New mayor in town

After Robyn Geldner withdrew her application for mayor, the Henderson City Council appointed Keith Swenson mayor. P. 12

## COVID-19 update

For the second week in a row, new cases were under 1,000. P. 12

PHOTOS BY RACHEL MILLER

Above: Halle Bemmels made a history-making catch last Wednesday that will no doubt be talked about for decades to come. The Giants were up 6-3 in the state championship game, and Saint Charles had the bases loaded with two outs when Mya Omdahl hit what would have been a grand slam to center field....were it not for senior outfielder Halle Bemmels' high-flying, game-saving catch at the fence line. Left: The 2021 State Champion Giants, beaming as they accept the state trophy. Top, left: Senior Olivia Fritz shares a celebratory hug with her fellow seniors, catcher Zoe Thomson (left) and Makenna Borchardt (right).

