

# LA CROSSE Tribune

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**THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021**

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## New resource for recovery

Federal grant to fund peer-run substance abuse respite house

**OLIVIA HERKEN**  
La Crosse Tribune

A La Crosse organization has received a new federal grant to help fund a peer-run respite site where people can begin their recovery from substance abuse with the help of others with first-hand experience of the disease.

La Crosse Lighthouse announced Wednesday that it re-

ceived a \$431,500 federal block grant to fund the program, which advocates say has been in the works for around six years and fills a major gap in services in the community.

"The rates are going up and up and up for those that have died of drug abuse, and we have to stop that. We can turn a corner and at the same time provide recovery," said Scott Mihalovic, president of the board of directors for Lighthouse.

"Our hope is to provide them a home-like situation, a nurturing environment that will allow them to begin their recovery. And we say

**"This is one big step for our community to help people (who are) ready to help themselves."**

Scott Mihalovic, Lighthouse board of directors president



in the business: "When it's their day! When it's their day, they can come to us and get that start that they need, with people that have lived this life," Mihalovic said.

La Crosse Lighthouse started in 2015, an extension of what was the La Crosse County Heroin Task Force and now the Alliance to

HEAL. The group has been solely focused on establishing a short-term safe house for those battling addiction and mental health.

But the unique part of the program is that it is peer-run, meaning that those involved have lived experiences with substance abuse, either personally or

through a loved one — including the staff at the house and much of the Lighthouse board of directors.

The group began its work after an individual shared his story of going through recovery on his own and eventually began to help others through the process in his home, too, pointing to the success the environment provided.

Officials said that they found that this type of recovery support was missing in the community.

"There definitely was that gap between what we had to offer and the needs in the community,"

Please see **RECOVERY**, Page A4

**MILWAUKEE BUCKS 105**



**98 PHOENIX SUNS**



ANGELA MAJOR, WPR NEWS

Fireworks explode as Bucks fans celebrate Tuesday night in Milwaukee.

## History made — at last

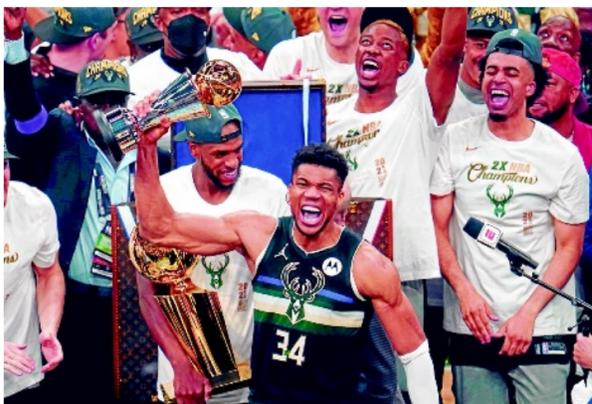
Fans across state celebrate Bucks' first NBA title in half a century

**BARRY ADAMS**  
Wisconsin State Journal

MILWAUKEE — History is no longer in the making.

The Milwaukee Bucks grabbed their first NBA title in 50 years Tuesday in front of a global audience, more than 17,000 inside Fiserv Forum and an overflow crowd of tens of thousands of people at an outdoor watch party in the Deer District.

"Bucks in six," a chant started after Milwaukee dropped the first two games of the best-of-seven series to the Phoenix Suns, became reality. "History in the making," a moniker plastered on the face of Fiserv Forum, became past tense as Milwaukee defeated the Phoenix Suns 105-98.



PAUL SANCYA, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo celebrates with the MVP trophy Tuesday night after scoring 50 points and leading the Bucks past the Phoenix Suns, 105-98, in Game 6 of the NBA Finals.

"I don't think the magnitude has hit anyone quite yet, but it will," said Drew Griswold, a lifelong Milwaukee resident who paid \$1,200 for a standing-room-only spot in Fiserv Forum.

"I don't think I can really comprehend how big of a deal it is for the state for the city, for Giannis, for the Bucks, for everybody."

It marked the first time since 1971, when Kareem Abdul-Jab-

bar ruled the court, that an NBA trophy has been hoisted in the city. It also marked one of the few times over the past five decades that the state could collectively bask in a championship by one of its major sports teams.

The Marquette University men's basketball team won the NCAA title in 1977 and the Green Bay Packers have 13 world titles, but only two of those came after the 1967 Super Bowl victory. The Milwaukee Brewers have yet to win a World Series and the Wisconsin Badgers football and basketball teams continue to chase national championships.

Tuesday night's feat created a moment that may have put Deer District in prime contention to one day be placed on the state register of historic places. But

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■ **INSIDE:** Giannis' biggest fans watch, celebrate title a world away, **PAGE A5**

## 'City won't forget'

La Crosse fire truck dedicated to James McCormick Sr.

**STEVE RUNDIO**  
La Crosse Tribune

While most of La Crosse was asleep ahead of a long Thanksgiving weekend, James McCormick Sr. was performing his duty as a city of La Crosse firefighter engineer. He responded during the overnight hours of Nov. 28, 1957, to a Ferry Street address, where a blaze damaged a living room and a kitchen.

After the fire was extinguished, McCormick attached his smoke mask and began roof operations. Shortly thereafter, he experienced chest and stomach pains and was taken to St. Francis Hospital, where he died at age 46.

It's been more than six decades since McCormick's death, but the La Crosse Fire Department has never forgotten his service. On Tuesday, the department dedicated a new fire truck in his honor at the Fifth Avenue South fire station.

"We are so pleased to have our loved one honored in this way," said Mike McCormick, James McCormick's grandson. "It's humbling, unexpected and exciting."

Fire department chief Ken Gilliam said it wasn't difficult tracking down James McCormick's relatives for the ceremony. McCormick's son, James McCormick Jr., served alongside his father in the fire department before retiring in 1987, and Mike McCormick worked for the city of La Crosse.

Mayor Mitch Reynolds noted the turnout of McCormick's family.

"Family members don't forget, and the city of La Crosse won't forget either," Reynolds said.

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