Alyssa receives assistance from occupational therapist Ann Vinz.

and is regaining functional use of her right, dominant hand," says Ann. "We are using many adaptive methods to help her functionality in that hand. Six weeks ago, she had a nerve graft and is working on performing gross functional grips, like grasping a water bottle and hanging onto it."

Adaptability is key when working with therapy patients, says Ann. "We have fashioned different devices to fit Alyssa's hand so she can do tasks like hold her bow to play her violin — a recent hobby she chose before the accident," Ann says. "We often fashion devices to fit patients since everyone's needs are unique to them."

Mercy therapists have helped Alyssa use many different splints for protection, stretching and help with light pinching until she can get her motor skills back. Given the extent of her injuries, just being able to pick up something like a coin or undo a safety pin is great progress, says Ann.

Both Alyssa and Billie Jo appreciate all that the Mercy therapists have done. "I love Ann!" says Billie Jo. "The therapists are all so good at Mercy. It is unlikely that Alyssa will regain her fine motor skills, but she has done such a good job in therapy and is doing so much better with everyday tasks."

Mercy Health System offers rehabilitation services at numerous locations. For more information, please call (608) 754-6000.

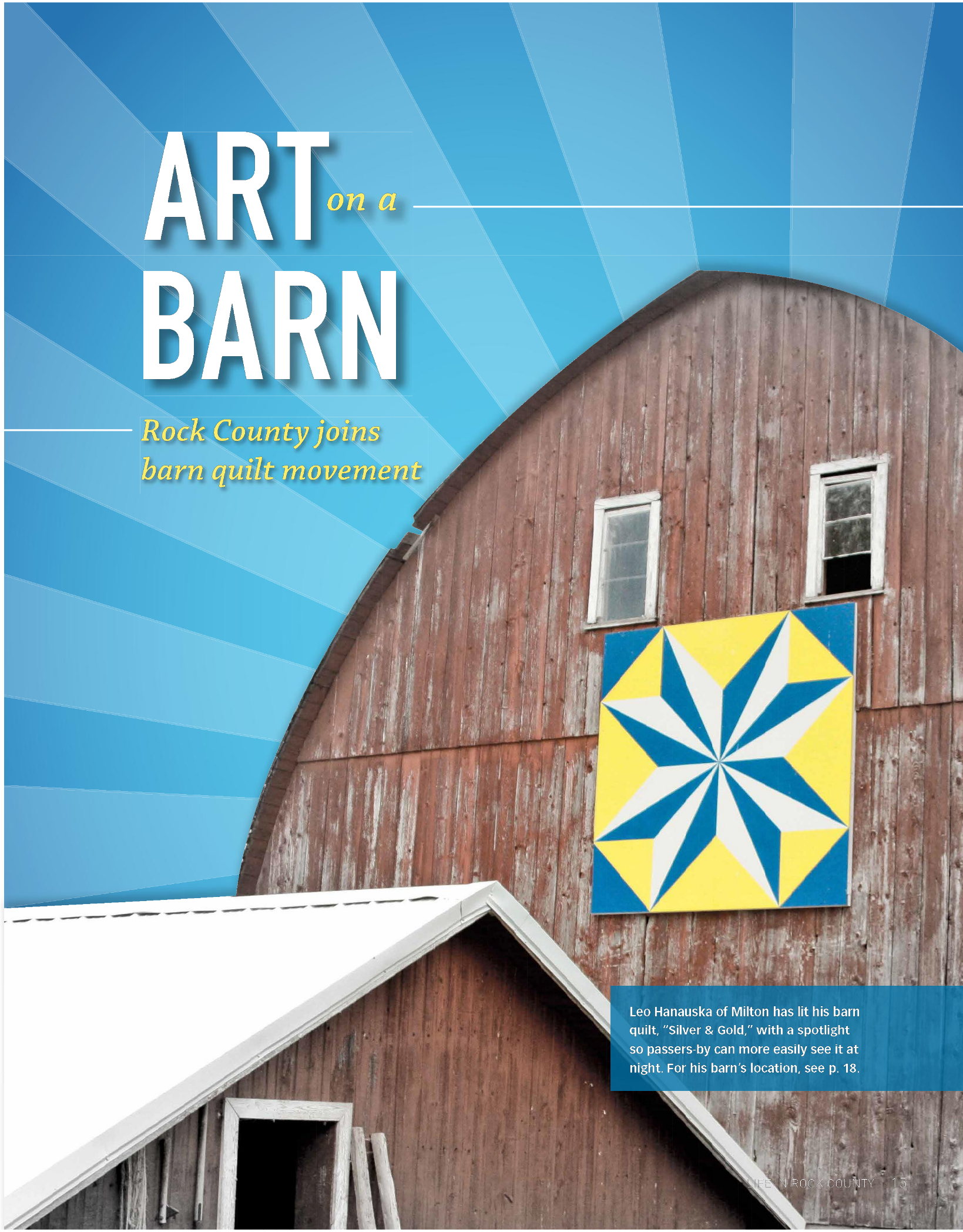
ADDITIONAL THERAPIES

Mercy Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center offers the following rehabilitation services:

- **Clinical health and rehabilitation psychology**
  If a patient has emotional difficulty adjusting to physical limitations or disabilities, health and rehabilitation psychologists show how to adjust through effective coping and stress management techniques.
- **Occupational therapy**
  Therapists use productive activities to help people increase their independence and restore their function.
- **Physical medicine and rehabilitation**
  Physician specialists use an aggressive, nonsurgical approach to address patients' pain, injuries and neurological concerns and restore as much function as possible.
- **Physical therapy**
  Specialists teach body mechanics, proper posture, and ways to improve or restore patients' balance, range of motion, coordination, strength, flexibility and endurance.
- **Speech therapy**
  Mercy's speech and language pathologists help patients who have a speech, language, swallowing or cognitive disorder due to a head injury, stroke or any congenital disorder.
- **SwimEx aquatic therapy pool**
  As part of a patient's rehabilitation plan, aquatic therapy is ideal for those who have mobility, pain or weight-bearing limitations.

ART *on a* BARN

Rock County joins barn quilt movement



Leo Hanauska of Milton has lit his barn quilt, "Silver & Gold," with a spotlight so passers-by can more easily see it at night. For his barn's location, see p. 18.

If you drive along the country routes in Rock County, you might find your eye drawn to a splash of color along the road. Take a closer look, and you'll see a barn decorated with a design that looks very much like a quilt — except it's made of wood.

It is, in fact, a "barn quilt," and it's the newest trend that has taken Rock County barns — and some businesses and homes in Evansville — by storm.

"There are lots of beautiful barn quilts in Rock County, but I like mine a lot," says Rosemary Scott, 74, of Janesville, who was among the first in the area to decorate her barn with one of the colorful designs. "I had taken a tour of the barn quilts in Green County and thought, wow, I want to do this. Then Walworth County started putting up barn quilts, too, and I really wanted to do it. When Rock County came on board, I got started on the ground floor because I wanted to be able to choose my pattern."

Rosemary Scott researched barn quilt designs to find the exact pattern she wanted for her barn. The pattern is called "Carpenter's Wheel." For her barn's location, see the map on p. 18.

THE FIRST BARN QUILTS

The American Quilt Trail Movement began in Adams County, Ohio, where a local woman worked to place painted quilt squares on barns to entice tourists to visit the county. Since then, the idea has spread to 29 states and Canada, and the trail continues to grow.

Several counties in Wisconsin — including neighboring Green and Walworth counties — began adding their own barn quilts to the trail over the last decade through the University of Wisconsin-Extension program. In 2010, a group of people in Evansville teamed up with others in Rock County to create Barn Quilts of Rock County. They found volunteers to prepare the wood, paint the quilts and deliver the finished product, and began the search for buyers.

Members of the core group started talking to people they knew and advertising their new project at dairy breakfasts and other county events. Soon, they had a few interested people lined up and were ready to begin.

The group paints barn quilts on three different sizes of wood — eight-foot squares (which cost $200), four-foot squares (which cost $90) and two-foot squares (which cost $50). Unlike other counties which maintain ownership of the quilts even after they are delivered, the Rock County group decided to transfer complete ownership of a quilt to the person who bought it. If you choose a design and buy a quilt, it's yours forever — no matter what you decide to do with it.

Rosemary Scott of Janesville

Jeanette Beard of Milton

Louise Hanauska of Milton

"THE BARN QUILTS ARE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY."

– PHIL WOODWORTH OF EVANSVILLE

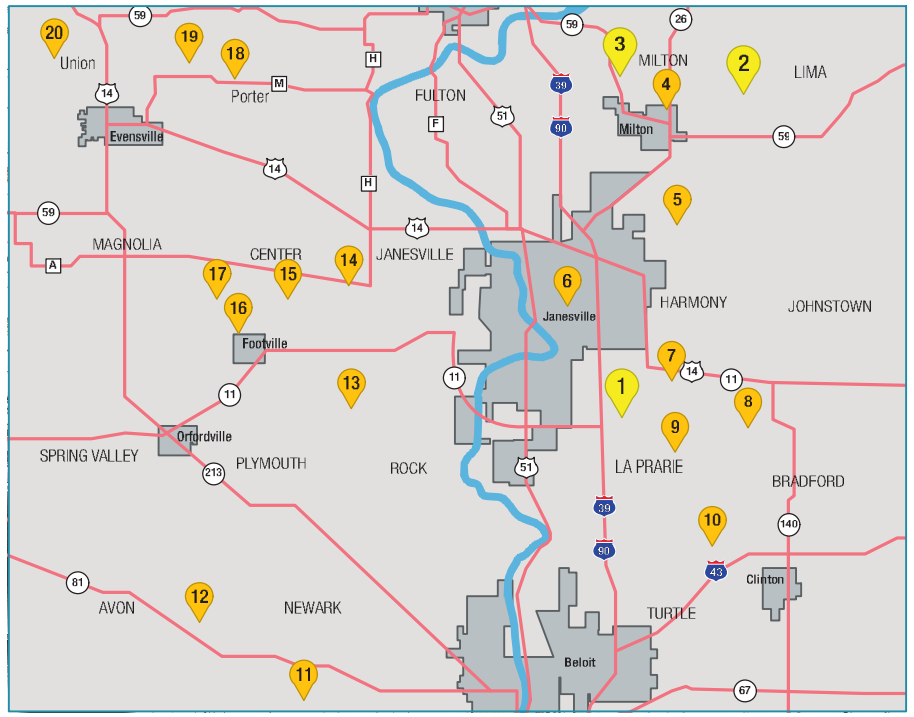
"We're selling them basically at cost," says Phil Woodworth of Evansville, one of the barn quilt committee members. "If you went online, you'd pay $500 for an eight-foot square."

While many of the people who bought quilts were farm owners, there were several business owners and even single-family homeowners who decide to purchase the works of art, too. The City of Evansville, in particular, has embraced the project. "In Evansville, you will see quilts on dentists' offices, insurance agencies, funeral homes and different types of homes," says Jeanette Beard of Milton, another barn quilt committee member. "All the Evansville schools have them because their alumni paid for them."

A BARN FULL OF MEMORIES

For some farmers, the barn quilts have become about family pride. Louise and Leo Hanauska of Milton

Rosemary Scott proudly shows off her "Carpenter's Wheel" quilt.



THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THE BARN QUILTS IN ROCK COUNTY

FOR MORE BARN QUILT LOCATIONS, CALL THE EVANSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM AT **(608) 882-5131** OR VISIT **BARNQUILTSOFROCKCOUNTY.ORG**.

1 CARPENTER'S WHEEL
Rosemary Scott
2231 S. County Road J, Janesville, WI 53546

2 SILVER & GOLD
Leo & Louise Hanauska
8209 N. Vickerman Rd., Milton, WI 53563

3 CLOVER BLOSSOM & BOWL OF LILIES
Rick & Jeanette Beard
3920 E. Jacobs Dr., Milton, WI 53563

4 AMISH STAR, MARINER'S COMPASS & THISTLE BLOOM
Loose Threads Quilt Shop
8005 SR-26, Milton, WI 53563

5 THE BERRY BASKET
Emmett & Cindy Reilly
4026 N. Henke Rd., Milton, WI 53563

6 4-H BLOCK (ORIGINAL), FFA RISING STAR, ROCK COUNTY FAIR & ROCK COUNTY FAIR STAR (ORIGINAL)
Rock County Fairgrounds
1301 Craig Ave., Janesville, WI 53545

7 BASKET, LADY OF THE LAKE, LOVE IN A MIST & PRISCILLA'S DOUBLE STAR
Life's A Stitch Quilt Shoppe
5130 E. US-14, Janesville, WI 53546

8 SUMMER BREEZE STAR
Ben & Shelley Wellnitz
2910 S. Emerald Grove Rd., Janesville, WI 53546

9 CELTIC MORNING
Leach Farms, Inc., Kirk & Marilyn Leach, 3634 S. Van Allen Rd., Janesville, WI 53546

10 VARIABLE STAR
Allan & Valerie Hahn
6615 E. County Road J, Clinton, WI 53525

11 SUMMER WINDS
Beckman Mill
11600 S. County Road H, Beloit, WI 53511

12 NO PLACE LIKE HOME/CENTURY FARM
David & Marilyn Grenawalt
12448 W. Beloit-Newark Rd., Beloit, WI 53511

13 GRANDMOTHER'S FLOWER GARDEN
Linda & Robert Smith
6837 W. Butler Rd., Janesville, WI 53548

14 COUNTRY DECISION
Ken & Martha Aasen,
7410 W. County Road A, Evansville, WI 53536

15 FOX AND GOOSE
Myrtle Ballmer
9301 W. Townsend Rd., Janesville, WI 53548

16 PEONY
Nils & Nancy Nelson
10919 W. Mineral Point Rd., Janesville, WI 53548

17 FIELDS OF DREAMS (ORIGINAL)
John & Beverly Quinn,
11845 W. Townsend Rd., Janesville, WI 53548

18 KALEIDOSCOPE
Gerald & Marilyn Vanthournout
8912 N. Wilder Rd., Evansville, WI 53536

19 THE BEST OF ALL
Greg & Cathy Arnold
12418 W. Bullard Rd., Evansville, WI 53536

20 5-T'S/T QUARTETTE
Templeton Farms
9808 N. Evansville Brooklyn Rd, Evansville, WI 53536

had never heard anything about the project until their daughters signed them up at the Rock County 4-H Fair, eager to see a piece of art decorate the barn in which they had shared so many fond childhood memories.

Louise's earliest memory of her farm came when she was a young girl, walking home from a long day in her one-room schoolhouse. She saw a barn burning at the farm around the corner from her own home — the same farm where she now lives. "I would never have had any thought when I was in eighth grade that I would one day end up living on the farm with the burning barn," she says.

When she was in her 20s, the people who owned the farm decided to leave the milking business and move to town. Her parents

Jeanette Beard displays her "Clover Blossom" barn quilt.

bought the farm and asked her and Leo if they wanted to move into the empty farmhouse. They've been there ever since. Now, one of their daughters and her husband live in the farmhouse where Louise grew up.

The Hanauskas' barn has become a popular place over the years. One of their daughters begged to have a barn dance for her graduation party. Louise's sister and brother-in-law also used the barn to host a dance for a group of international business clients. Now, their grandchildren use the barn to house their 4-H animals. "That barn means probably as much to our children and grandchildren as it does to us," says Louise.

Leo has lit the quilt with a spotlight so it's visible to all passers-by. "We liked the idea of a barn quilt," says Louise. "It really sets the barn off."

Jeanette Beard has painted dozens of barn quilts over the past three years.

NEARING THE END

When Barn Quilts of Rock County first formed, the core group decided to commit to a three-year project. Over that period of time, they have installed more than 200 barn quilts in Rock County.

Now that the three-year period is coming to a close, the requests for barn quilts are dwindling. "I think most people who want one have got one by now," says Phil.

That said, some committee members — including Jeanette, who paints quilts — have said they will continue making barn quilts as long as people still want them. "I enjoy making the quilts," Jeanette says. "It's mathematical — you draw a grid and then make your pattern out of that. Some of the quilts have turned out just beautiful."

"The barn quilts are good for the community," adds Phil. "They're artistic, they look neat and they help with tourism. Last year, we had a couple of busloads that came through to tour the barn quilts."

"I've learned so much through this project," says Jeanette. "Our county is so much more than Janesville. It's a beautiful county, full of wonderful people."