



**JUMP!** — Savannah Thurber is shown on her horse, Ginger. The Thurber family owns and operates Lake Pointe Equestrian Center in Bethlehem.

## Local equestrian center under new ownership, tack shop opens Dec. 9

By MICAH HENRY

An equestrian business in Bethlehem is now under new ownership.

Lake Pointe Equestrian Center (formerly known as Sunset Ridge) opened under new ownership on September 1, 2017, said Kari Thurber, who owns the establishment with her husband, Korey Thurber.

The Thurbers purchased the Bethlehem property and moved there after having rented a facility in Huntersville. The family much prefers their current situation with no landlord.

They brought 18 horses to Lake Pointe,

including lesson horses and the Thurbers' own private horses. The facility now has 23 horses in its stables, with space to spare for boarding other horses.

Thurber noted recent improvements to the facility include 300 rubber mats placed in the center aisle and stalls of the barn, so that all stalls are matted.

The Thurbers have also painted most all of the buildings to freshen their appearance.

And the community is responding well.

"It's been great," Kari said. "We have groups of all ages come in for riding instruction."

A small monthly fee,

similar to that for soccer or other community team sports, buys a weekly riding lesson, Kari said.

"Our big item is affordability," she added. "Horseback riding is not an elite sport. It's not super expensive."

In addition to classes, Lake Pointe can host events, such as birthday parties.

Lake Pointe also has riders who participate in IEA (Interscholastic Equine Association) sanctioned events and 4-H sponsored events.

Daughters Savannah, 16, and Sydney, 18, help in the family business, too. The girls have been riding since they were little and are accomplished riders in their own right. Savannah and Sydney and three other instructors teach English riding classes at Lake Pointe, Kari stated.

Students learn the basics first. They are taught to groom horses and later learn to tack-up themselves, and build a skill set and respect for the animals from the start.

Group lessons are available, based on riders' skill levels. Semi-private lessons are available for groups of two to four people. Of course, 1-on-1 private lessons are also available.

Lake Pointe Equestrian offers holiday camps on school breaks, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. The next holiday camp is coming up over Christmas Break.

Overnight camps are held in summer, too.

Due to a lack of riding equipment for sale in this area, Kari said she will be opening the Lake Pointe Tack Shop this month. Its Grand Opening Sale is planned for this Saturday, December 9.

For more information, call Lake Pointe Equestrian Center at 704-996-6074 or visit LakePointeEC.com. The facility is located at 2998 Teague Town Road.

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