

Saskatchewan success moves to Manitoba

By Sheila Runions

Banner Staff **K**im Richardson may be new to the area, having bought a farm

between Rivers and Alexander in January 2016, but she's not new to the world of horses. She moved here to "start a new chapter in my life and see what adventures are ahead" and during her move, she brought along her businesses. Lucky Break Ranch and Tack was a very successful operation in Saskatchewan and because of her three-decade "passion" about horses she knew she had to maintain that part of her old chapter in her new steps of life's journey.

"My horses are my passion. I don't think of them as livestock, they are my family; each and everyone of them hold a very special place in my heart. I'd be lost without them. I have my horses, mini ponies, mini donkeys and my two goofy llamas."

Through Equine Connections, she received her certification as an Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) Facilitator; this EAL designation is the second most-recognized horse certification in the world.

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She also trained with Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) to receive her riding instructor certification. In addition to these educational programs, she has years of personal experience upon which to draw when teaching others proper horsemanship.

"I have grown up with horses and they have played a major role throughout my whole life, in one way or another, for the past 30 some years. When my kids were growing I played an active part in their social life. For many years I would be at the hockey rink, managing or coaching a team or be a board member for the association. If it wasn't hockey, I'd be coaching baseball. I was also a scout leader and scout board member for a lot of years. I've always enjoyed helping kids develop."

To that end, Lucky Break Ranch will be hosting its first Manitoba camps this summer; see their ad for more information. The ranch offers trail rides, riding lessons and sells tack, through its Facebook page or at the farm yard. Kim is willing to work with local tack suppliers to sell their product through her, so if that is your occupation feel free to contact her. Because she has no connections to Manitoba other than her unnamed fiancé, she doesn't know who may be interested in consigning with her.

As her ad states, horse camps are for ages eight to 13, "But if there is enough interest from 14-16 years or even adults, I would offer some workshops or possibly do a couple evening programs through the week/ weekend. I supply the horses and tack for all programs I offer; my horses are trained to do this program. If someone wants to bring their own horse for riding lessons outside of camp, I do an evaluation of the horse to make sure my client gets the most out of their lesson(s)."

While Kim co-ordinates the camps and is the teacher, she provides the lessons at Schwennesen Equestrian Centre (SEC) just off Spring Valley Road. She knows it is only because of "their amazing facilities I use, to be able to do all this. They truly are good people with very big hearts. I'm very fortunate to have met them and even luckier that they allow me to continue to chase my dreams. SEC has both an indoor and two outdoor arenas so no matter what the weather is like, all activities are able to go on as scheduled."

Some activities include horse interaction, care and grooming, unmounted activities, safety, well-being and control of the equine. According to information on her Facebook account, which has four pages of information about the camps, "EAL is not about riding or horses; however, they are used as a powerful teaching tool in a safe, non-threatening environment. This unique program helps develop life skills necessary to deal with difficult and negative social issues like peer pressure or abusive environments."

Kim sums up Lucky Break Ranch and Tack as, "I really hope to be able to work with schools in the area with troubled youth, whether it be the bullies or the ones being bullied. I'd like to work with troubled teens, abused/addicted women and men. Companies that struggle with high employee turn-over or just want to build on employee teamwork/leadership skills... EAL can touch people no matter what age, life circumstance or profession and it really does change your life. There has been research done on this program that shows it works and I look forward to being able to help people change their lives for the better."