

# WEST COAST

CALIFORNIA IDAHO NEVADA OREGON  
UTAH WASHINGTON WYOMING

Owner Henry Williamson (left) and a tight-knit staff keep things moving at Arroyo Vista, including (second left to right): Pablo Martinez, Samuel Tovar, Jesus "Chalio" Morones, Yecenia Martinez-Silva, Jeanne Davis, and Miguel Jimenez



## Making It Happen

### ARROYO VISTA FARM OWNER LOOKS TO CAPITALIZE ON CAL-BRED PROGRAM

By TRACY GANTZ

**T**HE SYNERGY SPARKED BY THE creation of Arroyo Vista Farm comes from many California threads. It draws on farms such as Valley Creek, Ballena Vista, Harris Farms, and Circle H Ranch, weaving in the lives of owner Henry Williamson and farm manager Mike Jimenez, along with a dash of San Luis Rey Downs and the late Hall of Fame trainer Charlie Whittingham.

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# 2021 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands               | 2021 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | BT SWnrs/ Wns | Rstret SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)        | 2021 Earnings | Foals | Cumulative |           |            |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |                                                                    |               |            |               |                  |                                 |               |       | BT SWs     | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | Stay Thirsty (08, Bernardini), Lovacres Ranch                      | \$10,000      | 181/89     | 4/6           | 2/4              | (Mind Control, \$356,500)       | \$4,167,543   | *569  | 15         | 1.20      | 1.33       |
| 2    | I'll Have Another (09, Flower Alley), Ocean Breeze Ranch           | \$10,000      | 210/104    | 1/1           | 0/1              | (Omega Rainbow, \$190,529)      | \$3,267,607   | 396   | 3          | 0.99      | 1.09       |
| 3    | Grazen (06, Benchmark), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds                   | \$6,000       | 101/51     | 4/5           | 2/4              | (Lieutenant Dan, \$237,720)     | \$2,872,690   | 232   | 14         | 1.47      | 1.07       |
| 4    | Square Eddie (06, Smart Strike)                                    | Pnsd          | 90/40      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (I'll Stand Taller, \$157,680)  | \$2,583,462   | 262   | 18         | 1.48      | 1.15       |
| 5    | Graydar (09, Unbridled's Song), Milky Way Farm                     | \$4,000       | 118/60     | 1/1           | 1/1              | (Gray Attempt, \$142,226)       | \$2,548,786   | *306  | 6          | 0.91      | 1.37       |
| 6    | Smiling Tiger (07, Hold That Tiger), Harris Farms                  | \$7,500       | 100/49     | 1/1           | 0/1              | (Scary Fast Smile, \$105,260)   | \$2,158,709   | 260   | 9          | 1.04      | 1.00       |
| 7    | Vronsky (99, Danzig), Harris Farms                                 | Died, 2021    | 79/40      | 2/4           | 1/2              | (The Chosen Vron, \$267,250)    | \$2,090,643   | 329   | 12         | 1.21      | 1.03       |
| 8    | Clubhouse Ride (08, Candy Ride), Legacy Ranch                      | Private       | 55/27      | 2/5           | 0/2              | (Brickyard Ride, \$300,700)     | \$1,916,306   | 110   | 3          | 1.42      | 0.93       |
| 9    | Ministers Wild Cat (00, Deputy Minister), Tommy Town Thoroughbreds | \$4,000       | 87/47      | 3/3           | 1/3              | (Colt Fiction, \$202,732)       | \$1,833,257   | 525   | 21         | 0.93      | 0.88       |
| 10   | Mr. Big (03, Dynaformer), Rancho Temescal                          | \$4,500       | 64/32      | 2/2           | 1/2              | (Big Fish, \$112,000)           | \$1,723,246   | 141   | 5          | 1.35      | 0.92       |
| 11   | Jersey Town (06, Speightstown), Daehling Ranch                     | \$3,000       | 65/34      | 2/2           | 2/2              | (Heritage Park, \$116,700)      | \$1,511,292   | *203  | 6          | 1.04      | 1.06       |
| 12   | Acclamation (06, Unusual Heat), Harris Farms                       | \$4,000       | 48/23      | 1/1           | 0/1              | (Acclimate, \$256,000)          | \$1,325,638   | 175   | 3          | 1.00      | 1.18       |
| 13   | Sir Prancealot (IRE) (10, Tamayuz), Rancho San Miguel              | \$15,000      | 103/42     | 1/1           | 0/1              | (Copper Knight, \$138,690)      | \$1,185,039   | *326  | 10         | 1.25      | 0.92       |
| 14   | Lucky Pulpit (01, Pulpit)                                          | Died, 2017    | 59/35      | 2/3           | 2/2              | (Fashionably Fast, \$193,646)   | \$1,184,196   | *478  | 12         | 1.21      | 1.02       |
| 15   | Champ Pegasus (06, Fusaichi Pegasus)                               | N/A           | 67/42      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (I'll Do It for You, \$125,056) | \$761,210     | 218   | 0          | 0.35      | 0.99       |
| 16   | Misremembered (06, Candy Ride), Barton Thoroughbreds               | \$2,500       | 41/14      | 2/3           | 0/2              | (Greek Geek, \$139,535)         | \$672,505     | 148   | 7          | 0.96      | 1.10       |
| 17   | Richard's Kid (05, Lemon Drop Kid), Rancho San Miguel              | \$2,500       | 31/14      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Sapphire Kid, \$80,380)        | \$655,124     | 86    | 0          | 1.06      | 0.92       |
| 18   | Empire Way (09, Empire Maker), Heinz & Michelle Steinmann Farms    | \$2,500       | 60/23      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Mucha Woman, \$73,480)         | \$619,802     | 157   | 2          | 0.60      | 0.93       |
| 19   | Majestic Harbor (08, Rockport Harbor), Harris Farms                | \$2,500       | 13/7       | 1/2           | 1/1              | (Pearl Tiara, \$188,473)        | \$597,316     | 25    | 1          | 1.62      | 0.81       |
| 20   | Idiot Proof (04, Benchmark), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds            | \$3,000       | 27/12      | 0/0           | 0/0              | (In Our A, \$109,380)           | \$565,150     | 127   | 2          | 1.10      | 0.92       |



COURTESY OF ARROYO VISTA FARM/LORI PIEDRA

Texas Ryano has deep ties to Arroyo Vista; the grade 2 winner raced as a homebred for Warren Williamson

and Williamson.”

As his father's health declined, Henry stepped into more of a management role with the horses. Warren died in early 2018, and Henry wanted to honor his father by continuing the racing stable, something he has enjoyed immensely. Henry and wife Robin's three children enjoy racing too, so much so that Warren named one of the last horses he bred for his grandson Ryan.

Ryan's middle initial is "O," and thus his nickname is Rhino. Ryan had recently been accepted into engineering school at the University of Texas, and Warren suggested the name Texas Ryano, but pronounced "rhino."

Trained by Carla Gaines for Warren Williamson, Texas Ryano earned \$455,045 and won the 2016 Hollywood Turf Cup (G2T) and 2015 King Pellinore Stakes. The son of Curlin—Blending Element, by Great Commotion, retired to stud at Ballena Vista for the 2018 breeding season. Now 10, Texas Ryano had his first winner, Peppermint Flirt, at Del Mar Sept. 2.

Meanwhile, Henry Williamson looked into the land that would become 35-acre Arroyo Vista, initially as a real estate investment.

"I had been made aware of the old Valley Creek Farm, which I had remembered being owned by Jack Liebau and Tom Capehart, with Leigh Ann Howard running everything," he

Williamson, Jimenez, and the Arroyo Vista crew have put together a breeding facility near Valley Center, Calif., with young stallion Texas Ryano as its cornerstone. That sire might prove just the beginning, as the farm grows and turns out California-bred winners.

Arroyo Vista's roots began with Williamson and Jimenez. Williamson is the son of the late Warren (Spud) Williamson, who bred and raced the likes of Cal-bred Horse of the Year Nashoba's Key and Cal-bred stakes winners Tiz Elemental and Tiz a Blend. Jimenez grew

up on the Arroyo Vista property when it was Valley Creek Farm, managed by Jimenez' mentor, the late Leigh Ann Howard.

"My dad and I had looked at farms in Fallbrook years ago," said Henry. "We were just going to have a layup place and maybe a few mares there."

Henry had long been a partner with his father on the horses. Though Warren's orange and yellow silks with its two Ws would seem to represent "Warren Williamson," they actually described the father and son: "Williamson

# 2021 LEADING SIRES IN IDAHO

For daily updated sire lists visit [BloodHorse.com](http://BloodHorse.com)

| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB,Sire), Where Stands | 2021 Stud Fee | Rnrs/<br>Wnrs | BT<br>SWnrs/<br>Wns | Rstrct<br>SW/<br>BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)       | 2021<br>Earnings | Foals | Cumulative |              |               |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|------------|--------------|---------------|
|      |                                                     |               |               |                     |                        |                                |                  |       | BT<br>SWs  | A-E<br>Index | Comp<br>Index |
| 1    | Boos (07, Ghostzapper)                              | N/A           | 10/5          | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Collecting Stars, \$16,688)   | \$74,305         | 36    | 2          | 0.48         | 0.34          |
| 2    | Heir Joe (07, Wildcat Heir)                         | N/A           | 3/3           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Prince Ali, \$11,343)         | \$22,637         | 5     | 0          | 0.20         | 0.35          |
| 3    | Miraculous Hand (03, Marquetry)                     | N/A           | 1/1           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Tw Skipping Stones, \$15,369) | \$15,369         | 18    | 0          | 0.18         | 0.29          |
| 4    | Bachelor of Arts (GB) (01, Stravinsky)              | N/A           | 4/1           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Royal Bachelor, \$5,900)      | \$10,260         | 41    | 0          | 0.09         | 0.34          |
| 5    | Reversal (97, Gone West)                            | N/A           | 1/0           | 0/0                 | 0/0                    | (Wild Derby Daze, \$1,650)     | \$1,650          | 82    | 2          | 0.37         | 1.01          |

said. “At that stage, I was really looking to just restore it.”

Not only had Jimenez grown up on the property but his father, Luis, galloped horses for Whittingham. Young Mike even worked occasionally for Whittingham at nearby San Luis Rey Downs.

“At one point I was the swing groom for everybody who took a day off,” Mike Jimenez said. “I got to groom Sunday Silence, Ferdinand, all those big horses Charlie had.”

Jimenez eventually served in management positions at Ballena Vista in Ramona about 35 miles away. When Ballena Vista closed, Henry Williamson found it a natural progression to retrofit the Valley Creek property, despite having to do it in the midst of the pandemic. He hired Jimenez as the farm manager and several others from Ballena Vista, including Jeanne Davis as the sales and marketing manager.

“I didn’t really know which direction (the property) was going to go until I heard that Ballena Vista was closing down,” Williamson said. “We had about 90 days to prepare it to become a breeding farm. That was right around September of 2020. We moved horses in Jan. 16 (2021)—our mares out here in California and also our babies, which was a wonderful day.

“It was a lot of hard work—we were working on it 24/7. But if you’re passionate about this business, which I am, you make it happen.”

Not only does Williamson credit his father for what he learned about the industry, but he cites the early days when Warren boarded horses at Jack Hoover’s Circle H Ranch. Henry also recalls Warren’s friendship with people such as California industry leader John Harris, owner of Harris Farms.



The first winner for Texas Ryano, Peppermint Flirt, didn’t take long to reach the winner’s circle as she scored on the Del Mar turf in her second start

**“... IF YOU’RE  
PASSIONATE  
ABOUT THIS  
BUSINESS,  
WHICH I AM,  
YOU MAKE  
IT HAPPEN.”**

—HENRY WILLIAMSON

“All of a sudden this was all making its way through the circuit at Arroyo Vista,” Henry said. “The real crux of this, though, was having Mike Jimenez come to me. I was actually bringing him over to the farm just to show him the place because he had grown up there. He knew exactly where (Horse of the Year) Lady’s Secret is buried over in one of the pastures and gave me all of this history.”

The team that helped Williamson

realize his vision includes Robin, who employs her administrative skills and is “the operational brains of the farm,” Williamson said. The 35 acres now include two barns and several pastures and turnouts of various sizes. Williamson said they are working to put a marker on the corner of the pasture where Lady’s Secret is buried under a large oak tree to commemorate the Hall of Fame daughter of Secretariat.

Williamson operates Arroyo Vista as a commercial breeding farm. Jimenez says they also do sales prep, but that they send young horses elsewhere for breaking and training.

They renovated an eight-stall barn that already was on the property, and the stalls have removable panels to convert the space into larger foaling stalls. The four-stall barn on the back of the property is the stallion barn, right now only for Texas Ryano, though the farm might add more.

# 2021 LEADING SIRES IN OREGON

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|------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |                                                              |               |           |              |                 |                                |               |       | BT SWs     | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | Harbor the Gold (01, Seeking the Gold), Bar C Racing Stables | Died, 2021    | 71/38     | 2/3          | 1/2             | (Harbored Memories, \$126,700) | \$1,014,795   | 424   | 26         | 0.60      | 0.69       |
| 2    | Sixthirteen (04, Dixie Union), Bar C Racing Stables          | \$1,000       | 19/8      | 0/0          | 0/0             | (El Maestro, \$23,210)         | \$105,451     | 67    | 0          | 0.28      | 0.55       |
| 3    | Giacomo (02, Holy Bull), Oakhurst Thoroughbreds              | \$2,500       | 16/3      | 0/0          | 0/0             | (Rona, \$30,599)               | \$101,404     | *377  | 10         | 0.94      | 1.04       |
| 4    | Grindstone (93, Unbridled)                                   | Pnsd          | 10/2      | 0/0          | 0/0             | (Racing Ray, \$25,317)         | \$60,435      | *653  | 17         | 0.92      | 1.38       |
| 5    | Dynamic Impact (11, Tiznow), Bar C Racing Stables            | \$1,500       | 3/1       | 0/0          | 0/0             | (Cute Impact, \$22,100)        | \$36,820      | 4     | 0          | 0.51      | 1.03       |
| 6    | Understatement (05, Distorted Humor), Nance Training Stables | \$1,000       | 5/1       | 0/0          | 0/0             | (Stay in Grace, \$27,411)      | \$34,494      | 52    | 0          | 0.39      | 0.47       |
| 7    | Coastal Storm (99, Storm Cat)                                | N/A           | 4/1       | 0/0          | 0/0             | (Mr Memphis, \$6,655)          | \$12,736      | 174   | 3          | 0.94      | 0.78       |
| 8    | Klinsman (IRE) (94, Danehill)                                | Died, 2020    | 1/1       | 0/0          | 0/0             | (Burton Ernie, \$10,699)       | \$10,699      | 68    | 0          | 0.35      | 0.46       |
| 9    | Why Not Be Perfect (07, Whywhywhy), Keizer Equestrian Center | \$750         | 2/0       | 0/0          | 0/0             | (Awezee, \$1,917)              | \$3,566       | 11    | 0          | 0.07      | 0.39       |
| 10   | Slew's Saga (02, Seattle Slew)                               | N/A           | 1/0       | 0/0          | 0/0             | (Omaha Rutsch, \$1,980)        | \$1,980       | 37    | 1          | 0.28      | 0.66       |



Arroyo Vista is a big believer in the California-bred program

Williamson is a big believer in the California-bred program. He currently owns 12 mares, with the possibility of acquiring more as he develops prospects via his racing stable. He keeps some of the mares in Kentucky though many might return to California to foal Cal-breds.

Nashoba's Gold, a multiple graded stakes-winning homebred daughter of Smart Strike and a half sister to Nashoba's Key, is in foal to Authentic. Foxysox,

a Great Britain-bred multiple graded winner raced by Warren Williamson, is in foal to Lookin At Lucky. Madame Overserved, a daughter of Curlin—Foxysox, is in foal to Game Winner.

Williamson also has two mares out of Irish-bred Blending Element, a graded stakes winner and earner of \$448,483 and the dam of Texas Ryano. Excessive Blend, the champion Cal-bred 3-year-old female of 2009, is a multiple stakes winner by In Excess and is in foal to Lord

Nelson. Ultimate Blend, by Tiznow, has an Omaha Beach weanling colt, and is in foal to Goldencents.

Gaines trained most of Warren Williamson's runners while Henry has his runners spread out among a few more trainers, including Peter Miller, Reid France, and William E. Morey. Morey trains Visitant, a 5-year-old Williamson-bred son of Ghostzapper—Peppermint Lounge, by Distorted Humor. Visitant won the 2019 Alcatraz Stakes at

# Texas Ryano

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- Texas Ryano is the only CA Freshman Sire to have a winner going two turns!



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# 2021 LEADING SIRES IN WASHINGTON

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| Rank | Stallion (Foreign foaled), (YOB, Sire), Where Stands       | 2021 Stud Fee | Rnrs/ Wnrs | BT SWnrs/ Wns | Rstrct SW/ BT SW | (Chief Earner, Earnings)       | 2021 Earnings | Foals | Cumulative |           |            |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|
|      |                                                            |               |            |               |                  |                                |               |       | BT SWs     | A-E Index | Comp Index |
| 1    | Conveyance (07, Indian Charlie), Blue Ribbon Farm          | \$2,500       | 38/25      | 2/2           | 0/2              | (Rock On Luke, \$153,050)      | \$990,263     | 80    | 3          | 1.07      | 1.23       |
| 2    | Coast Guard (05, Stormy Atlantic), El Dorado Farms         | \$2,000       | 48/20      | 1/1           | 1/1              | (Coastal Kid, \$71,420)        | \$483,534     | 108   | 6          | 0.50      | 0.54       |
| 3    | Abraaj (03, Carson City)                                   | Died, 2019    | 40/23      | 1/1           | 0/1              | (A View From Above, \$44,418)  | \$432,512     | 126   | 8          | 0.54      | 0.65       |
| 4    | Gallant Son (06, Malabar Gold), West Coast Training Center | \$1,250       | 20/9       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Gallant Guy, \$89,342)        | \$324,604     | 32    | 0          | 0.62      | 0.69       |
| 5    | Nationhood (02, Cherokee Run), Blue Ribbon Farm            | Died, 2020    | 17/10      | 1/2           | 0/1              | (Koron, \$65,918)              | \$231,919     | 80    | 3          | 0.45      | 0.64       |
| 6    | Linchpin (10, Elusive Quality)                             | N/A           | 14/9       | 1/1           | 0/1              | (Ms Lynn, \$55,488)            | \$216,822     | 46    | 1          | 0.35      | 0.46       |
| 7    | War Power (06, Pulpit), Frances Long                       | Private       | 12/6       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Fables Love Affair, \$29,981) | \$123,044     | 36    | 1          | 0.35      | 0.41       |
| 8    | Gold Aly (06, Medaglia d'Oro), Lucky Acres Farm            | \$1,200       | 6/4        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Franks Fix It, \$33,284)      | \$103,368     | 20    | 0          | 0.37      | 0.51       |
| 9    | Parker's Storm Cat (00, Storm Cat)                         | N/A           | 12/4       | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Orcadian Storm, \$21,809)     | \$75,835      | *334  | 4          | 0.80      | 0.98       |
| 10   | Preachinatthebar (01, Silver Charm)                        | N/A           | 5/2        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Distortedatthebar, \$34,904)  | \$53,577      | 113   | 0          | 0.36      | 0.52       |
| 11   | Private Gold (00, Seeking the Gold), El Dorado Farms       | \$1,500       | 5/2        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Gold Rush Dancer, \$34,950)   | \$53,555      | 194   | 4          | 0.47      | 0.55       |
| 12   | Houseofroyalhearts (02, Chester House), Magnum Farms       | \$1,000       | 7/3        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Togranpashousewego, \$17,292) | \$46,030      | 26    | 0          | 0.46      | 0.41       |
| 13   | Gotham City (98, Saint Ballado)                            | Died, 2019    | 5/0        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Gotham Desire, \$28,504)      | \$34,736      | 190   | 0          | 0.68      | 0.79       |
| 14   | Raise the Bluff (03, Pine Bluff)                           | N/A           | 7/1        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Cody's Choice, \$24,843)      | \$34,379      | 100   | 1          | 0.51      | 0.47       |
| 15   | Noosito (11, Harbor the Gold)                              | Died, 2018    | 6/3        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Sunshine Beach, \$9,075)      | \$29,192      | 9     | 1          | 0.66      | 0.68       |
| 16   | Python (10, Empire Maker)                                  | N/A           | 3/3        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Zalferro, \$12,975)           | \$29,185      | 13    | 0          | 0.27      | 0.32       |
| 17   | ¶ Pontiff (10, Giant's Causeway), Warlock Stables          | \$2,500       | 6/1        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Pontiffany, \$12,876)         | \$28,148      | 12    | 0          | 0.20      | 0.51       |
| 18   | Demon Warlock (00, Demons Begone), Roche Farm              | \$1,500       | 3/2        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Discreet Demons, \$11,648)    | \$26,367      | 54    | 4          | 0.57      | 0.61       |
| 19   | Trickey Trevor (99, Demaloot Demashoot)                    | N/A           | 3/1        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Iknowyourface, \$19,523)      | \$22,300      | 79    | 0          | 0.28      | 0.45       |
| 20   | Running Tap (08, Tapit)                                    | N/A           | 4/2        | 0/0           | 0/0              | (Tippytap On Sand, \$11,440)   | \$21,612      | 18    | 0          | 0.13      | 0.43       |

Golden Gate Fields and the 2021 Twin-Spires Kentucky Cup Classic Stakes at Turfway Park. He could ultimately stand at Arroyo Vista.

Unlike his father (who “raced them all—my dad was a collector”) Henry plans to market many of the horses he breeds.

“I go to auction with our horses with the hope that we’re going to be able to sell them at a fair price,” Henry said. “If not, then we’ll race them.”

He sold Peppermint Flirt through McCarthy Bloodstock for \$47,000 at this year’s Fasig-Tipton Santa Anita 2-year-old sale to Joe Masino Racing. Williamson does own a 2-year-old Texas Ryano filly, named Carolyn’s Way for his daughter, and that filly will be racing at Golden Gate Fields, where Carolyn, who lives in the area, can see her.

Henry’s mother, Alyce, currently has a Texas Ryano 2-year-old filly named Lady Blackbird in training with Gaines.

“My mom would not allow me to sell this filly—she loved this filly so much,” Williamson said.

The son countermanded his mother, however, sending the filly to the 2020 Fasig-Tipton California yearling sale. Gaines bought her for Alyce for \$47,000. Now working in Southern California, Lady Blackbird could ultimately allow Alyce to defeat one of her son’s runners. **BH**



The farm’s front paddock always is a welcome sight



A renovated eight-stall barn on the property gives the farm flexibility as stalls have removable panels to convert the space into larger foaling stalls