



 $Kimmy, Tigger, Kathie, George, Rene \ and \ Josie \ posed \ for \ a \ personalized \ calendar, shown \ above. \ \textit{Photo courtesy of Kathie Ferrante}$

Past, Present and Future Horse Expertise: The Ferrante Family

By Lisa I. Kranz

Already, it's January. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to exercise more, Kathleen Ferrante offers an interesting option in Somis that she calls 'The Art of Riding the Western Horse.'

In her words: "Looking to get into shape? Our gym consists of fresh air, friendly four-legged friends and a whole lot of fun while creating lifetime memories."

For example, riders age 18 and under will enjoy Winter Horse Camp (Jan. 2-4) at Ferrante Ranch. Hopefully, sessions provide interest in Western horses for future younger riders. As Kathie says, "Youth rodeo is a great family involvement sport."

As the head trainer, she lists some favorite achievements: "Seeing students do well with their horses, such as showing and doing well. Learning new information. Fitting the right horse to the rider." Her decades of experience include three World Title honors.

The family has been involved in the horse business for more than 150 years, including selling horses to the military, producing rodeos, competing in rodeos and working in the movie industry. Husband George, a renown cutting horse judge who also did clinics and consulting, passed away in 2015. He and Kathie met

6 • Valley Vista Neighbors - January 2019

when she went to work for him training horses in the summer of 1977. Marriage followed in March of 1981.

It's no surprise that their daughters are continuing such an impressive legacy. Both went to school on full scholarships because of their accomplishments from showing. Current students at the ranch have potential to do the same, because an important goal is to help other youth riders get to that point, too.

Josie Ferrante, age 19, currently attends Texas Christian University, where she is on the TCU equestrian team. Kimmy Ferrante, age 22, rode for New Mexico State University's equestrian team for three years, and competed for NMSU's rodeo team for one year.

Vacations are quite rare these days, because of traveling all over with their horses. According to Kathie, "It feels like we're on vacation all the time. We have traveled to Italy, Japan, Canada and almost every state of the U.S. for events related to horses."

Somis has been home sweet home since 1989, and their present location since 2001. "We love living here because it makes you feel like you're in a rural area, but you're only 10 minutes away from town"

Horses and livestock have always been a big part of everyday life. Pets include all of the horses owned across the years, along with goats, cats and several dogs. The dogs, including a spunky Corgi, help herd cattle on the property.

Looking ahead, a big priority is to build and maintain Ferrante Ranch as a premier training and event facility. Kathie provides some hints: "We hope to grow by having events such as cutting, cow horse, barrel races and jackpot breakaway ropings.

"Also, this year I personally would like to focus more on showing and training cutting horses. Hopefully we can produce some events in our area and bring back cutting to southern California." She's definitely the right person to make it happen an outstanding cutting and reined cow horse competitor, judge and trainer, she has students with past and current world titles.

Another important plan for 2019 is launching a new equine consulting business. It will be for



Daughters Kimmy and Josie have earned plenty of champion awards. Photo by Rita Rogers Bishop

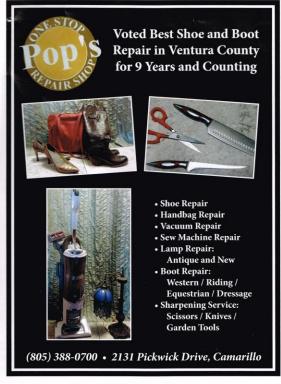
Continued on page 8



Horses, dogs and other animals have always been part of the Ferrante family. Photo by Rita Rogers Bishop



Kathie's numerous awards include three World Titles. Photo by Rita Rogers Bishop



Resident Feature Continued from page 7

anyone who wishes to be or is involved in horses to find all the resources they need for their horses — from purchasing a horse to building a backyard horse facility, finding the right equipment, getting your tack and feed room organized, along with proper feeding and care schedules.

"We're hoping that people in the community will take advantage of this service so that we can save them time and money when getting the backyard horse and facilities."



Kimmy and mother Kathie enjoy sharing their love of horses. Photo by Julie Campbell

Kathie, 59, has a varied background to tackle these New Year's resolutions in addition to her standout equestrian expertise.

Studies for the agriculture program at Pierce College included Animal and Horse Science, pre-veterinary courses, Horticulture, Natural Resources Conservation

and more. She finished at Moorpark College, specializing in agriculture and business practices and principles. Electrical worker training that began at Ventura College in 1997 was completed in 2002.

Kimmy likewise has diverse knowledge to help guide Ferrante Ranch's promising future. She majored in Business, Human Resources and Finance with a minor in Risk Management at NMSU, from which she graduated in May 2017.

Without question, the Ferrante family and their staff are an excellent team, ready to train riders of all ages to succeed. Besides creating top-quality programs to suit each individual, they offer clinics and workshops, as well as assistance with horse sales.

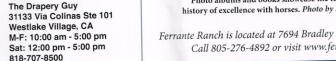


Kimmy, an experienced rider, and her horse partner can perform many different skills. Future plans for her family's premier training and event facility include hosting events such as jackpot breakaway roping, cow horse, cutting, and barrel races. Photo by Julie Campbell



Photo albums and books showcase the family's longtime history of excellence with horses. Photo by Rita Rogers Bishop

Ferrante Ranch is located at 7694 Bradley Road, Somis, CA 93066. Call 805-276-4892 or visit www.ferranteranch.com





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