



Clovis Rodeo Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Saturday, April 9, 2011

CONTACT: Alfreda Sebasto 559-285-1237
559-291-0184

TICKET OFFICE ONLY: 559-299-5203

Local Cowboys and Cowgirls Compete in Clovis Ranch Rodeo

(Clovis, California): Local cowboys and cowgirls showed what it takes to do what they do every day on the many working cattle ranches in the foothills above Clovis and throughout California at the 11th Annual Clovis Ranch Rodeo held today. They came to town with their best horses and showed off the roping, riding, branding and reining skills that are a part of the ranching activities they do every day.

The day-long ranch rodeo competition included teams of four riders who each must use the same horse for all events. The winning four-person team went home with saddles that proclaimed them the Clovis Ranch Rodeo Champions for 2011. Taking home top honors and bragging rights is a brand new team to the Clovis Ranch Rodeo from the Central Coast that included riders Lee Whitney, Wyatt Burdett, Frankie Martinez and Travis Timms.

The other winning cowboy and cowgirl teams included the following:

Winning Cowboy Teams were as follows:

First Place: Lee Whitney, Wyatt Burdett, Frankie Martinez and Travis Timms

Second Place: Gene Roberts Sr., Zeb Burroughs, Frank Heinrichs and David Lackey

Third Place: John Smith, Bill Garlick, Buster Berna and Carl Gould

Winning Cowgirl Teams were as follows:

First Place: Christie Jones, Sharon Edsall, Kylee Truelock and Nelly Ashton

Second Place: Meredith Burroughs, Kelli Roberts, Lacey Bourdet and Heidi Lackey

Third Place: Andee Patterson, Tracy Kennedy-Smith, Molly Myers and Debbie Tweedy

The 11th Annual Clovis Ranch Rodeo continued a month of activities celebrating Clovis Rodeo month and the community's western heritage. Many of the cowboys and cowgirls who participated in the event have deep roots in the region's ranching and rodeo community including the youngest competitor Mitch Behling at sixteen, and the oldest competitor for the past five years running, Tucker Slender, at 77 years of age.

Cowboys and cowgirls will be competing for more than \$16,000 in prizes including custom made saddles and silver bits. Major sponsors of the Clovis Ranch Rodeo include: McCaffrey Homes, Jon & Susan Edwards, Vince Genco, Sam Habib, Cargill, Evans Feed, Greg Harlan, Bob Robinson, Ricotti Saddles, Classic Equine, Ron Silva Reality, Bob Avila /Professional Choice, PLMA Madera, Troy Ford, DVM, Kevin Cantrelle - "Topsails Rien Maker," Hall Ag, Fairlea Ranch, Gene Roberts, Booth Ranches, Monte Person, George Porter and Realty Concepts.

The 97th Clovis Rodeo officially opens on Thursday, April 21 with the return of the PBR Bull Riding Pro-Division Tour. On Friday, April 22 rodeo action will begin with some of the best cowboys and bucking stock in professional rodeo followed by a concert with rising country star Easton Corbin. Two days of rodeo action will continue through the weekend, along with the popular Clovis Rodeo parade on Saturday, April 23. Tickets are available by calling 559-299-5203, visiting www.clovisrodeo.com or stopping by the rodeo ticket office at the rodeo grounds; ticket office hours are Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., with extended hours on Wednesdays until 7:00 p.m.

###

The all-volunteer, non-profit Clovis Rodeo Association (CRA) has 700 members. Approximately \$150,000 in proceeds from the Clovis Rodeo and related events coordinated by CRA members benefit local charities annually, including 4-H, FFA, Clovis Schools, Clovis Police Activities League, California High School Rodeo Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Break the Barriers, Boy Scouts of America, Clovis Community Hospital and the Central California Blood Center.