

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, April 22 2009

CONTACT: Alfreda Sebasto 559-285-1237 Mark Thompson 559-299-8838

TICKET OFFICE ONLY: 559-299-5203

Cowboys Start Qualifying for Clovis Rodeo

95th Annual Clovis Rodeo / April 23-26, 2009

(Clovis, California): More than 400 contestants began qualifying yesterday for the 95th Annual Clovis Rodeo to run April 23 – 26, 2009. Fans watched World Champions Luke Branquinho (steer wrestling), Matt Sherwood (Team Roping -Header) and Stran Smith (tie down) make their first of two qualifying runs for their events and saw what it takes to have the title of 2008 World Champion.

One of the top three rodeos in California and top fifteen across the nation the PRCA rodeo offers top contestants a total purse for all events of more than \$300,000 and plenty of cheering fans. Each contestant is trying to qualify for the Clovis Rodeo over the next two days in a field of world champion competition that knows what it takes to get to the National Finals Rodeo held each December in Las Vegas.

The rodeo will open on Thursday, April 23 with the return of the USST PBR Bull Riding Challenger Tour and some of the rankest bulls and toughest rising stars in bull riding today. The Friday night rodeo action will be followed by a concert for rodeo fans with multi-platinum country performing group, LONESTAR. Two days of rodeo activities will continue through the weekend beginning at 2:00 p.m. each day, along with the popular Clovis Rodeo parade at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 25 through the streets of Old Town Clovis.

Ticket prices range from \$15.00 to \$20.00 and are available by visiting the rodeo ticket office, calling the ticket office at 559-299-5203 or going to <u>www.clovisrodeo.com</u> to make a purchase online. The rodeo grounds are located on Clovis Avenue between Bullard and Shaw in the heart of downtown Clovis. Parking at the rodeo grounds is free of charge.

Date:	Event:	Time
Wednesday, April 22, 2009	"Slack" Preliminary Competition	8a.m.–2p.m.
Thursday, April 23, 2009	Preliminary Competition for Rodeo Continues Rodeo Blood Drive USST PBR Bull Riding Challenger Tour	9a.m.–2p.m. 5:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 24, 2009	95 th Rodeo followed by LONESTAR in Concert	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 26, 2009	Parade "Cowboys, Kids and Country" (Downtown Clovis) Queen Coronation Rodeo Events	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 27, 2009	Gold Card Team Roping Special Kids Rodeo Rodeo Events – Final Performance	9:00 a.m. 12:45 p.m. 2:00 p.m.

###

The all-volunteer, non-profit Clovis Rodeo Association (CRA) has 580 members. Approximately \$125,000 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.

P.O. Box 445, Clovis, CA 93613-0445

Office 559-299.8838 • Ticket Office 559-299-5203 • Fax 559-299-5989 • www.ClovisRodeo.com