

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, March 4 2009

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Clovis Rodeo Month Will Kick Off with Ranch Rodeo Saturday, April 4

95th Clovis Rodeo / April 23-26, 2009

(Clovis, California): The ninth annual Clovis Ranch Rodeo will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Clovis Rodeo grounds. It is a competition between local cowboys and cowgirls doing what they do every day - riding, roping, branding, reining and doctoring cattle. Open to the first 25 teams, the best riders and their horses are put to the test in the kind of ranching activities they must do every day as some of our region's best cattlemen and cattle women on active, working operations.

Ranch Rodeo teams are required to compete in five judged and five timed events. The events include team branding, team doctoring, individual ranch horse, individual trail horse, ranch cutting, team roping and team sorting. Each team consists of four (4) riders who must use their same horse for the entire event. More than \$16,000 in prizes are handed out to deserving cowboys and cowgirls including custom made saddles and silver bits. Entrance into the rodeo grounds to watch the Ranch Rodeo is free. A tri-tip BBQ and awards ceremony will be held at the end of the event for participants.

One member of each ranch rodeo team must belong to either the Clovis Rodeo Association, Fresno/Kings, Madera, Tulare or Merced/Mariposa County Cattlemen or Cattle women organizations. Cost to compete is \$125.00 per team member. Pre-entries will be taken beginning March 1 until the day of the event or when the first 25 teams are entered. Contact the Clovis Rodeo office at 559-299-8838 for additional information.

The Clovis Rodeo will open on Thursday, April 23 with the return of the US Smokeless Tobacco PBR Bull Riding Challenger Tour. 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, along with the popular Clovis Rodeo parade on Saturday, April 25.

Rodeo ticket prices range from \$15.00 to \$20.00 and are available by visiting the ticket office, calling the ticket office at 559-299-5203 or going to www.clovisrodeo.com 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. A full calendar of rodeo activities in Clovis during the month of April can be found by visiting www.clovisrodeo.com.

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The all-volunteer, non-profit Clovis Rodeo Association (CRA) has 580 members. Approximately \$100,000 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