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Billings rodeo fans welcome back the NRA Finals

BILLINGS, MONT.- For more than 33 winters, cowboys and cowgirls from all corners of this large state have been converging in Billings for the Northern Rodeo Association Finals. The NRA Rodeo Finals has been a long-standing event that rodeo contestants and rodeo fans alike have grown to expect a professional and entertaining event.

The three-day Finals at Rimrock Arena determine the year-end champions for each event. Nine individual champions are crowned, along with the all-around cowboy and all-around cowgirl, two of the organization's most coveted titles. The NRA Finals features the top ten in each individual event.

2008 brought the NRA Finals to a new level in entertainment as a free concert was offered after the rodeo performance on Thursday and Friday night. Little Texas took the stage on Thursday evening and gave a spectacular performance. Friday night brought Neal McCoy, who entertained the fans with his energy and excitement.

Coming into 2009, the NRA Finals has already expanded its entertainment from last year adding a concert to Saturday night. Performing opening night on Thursday is Trailer Choir. Friday night brings Sawyer Brown and Saturday night will be Josh Gracin.

Each rodeo ticket is also good for the concert. This year the NRA Finals will be offering a "VIP Experience" ticket that gives access to an exclusive pre-event party, front row tickets to the rodeo and a special front stage viewing area for the concert.

The NRA Finals will be held at the Rimrock Auto Arena on February 19-21, 2009 and tickets are now on sale and start at \$15. Tickets can be purchased at the MetraPark box office or by calling 406 256-2422 or toll free 800 366-8538.

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The Montana Agri-Trade Exposition (MATE Show), Health & Fitness Expo/Billings Home & Garden Show are owned by the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE). The MATE is held the third week of February and has a three day attendance of over 12,000 people. The NILE is a non-profit organization established in 1967 that is dedicated to the promotion of livestock, agriculture education, and respect of the western tradition. For more information contact the NILE office at 406-256-2495 or visit www.thenile.org.