

VALLEY CENTER STAMPEDE RODEO

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Donates \$10,000 to the Stampede Rodeo

By Trina West



As a result of an incredibly generous donation by the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, the Valley Center Stampede Rodeo created a new sponsorship level for this year's rodeo.

The tribe issued a much needed and appreciated check in the amount of \$10,000 to cover the operational costs associated with converting an empty hay field to a fully-functional rodeo ground. As such, to show their deep appreciation, the rodeo committee added a "Platinum Sponsor" category naming the tribe as their top-tier sponsor.

Beginning last October, Rodeo Chairwoman Joyce Holmes began the arduous task of raising

\$75,000 to cover the numerous costs of putting on the rodeo, including the cost of bleachers, arena & livestock rental, security and more. When asked why she works so hard year-after-year she replied with a smile, "For the love of rodeo; and of course the love of Valley Center and the kids!"

The rodeo operates under the umbrella of the Valley Center Optimist Club, a non-profit organization that supports our local youth, with a shared value of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. The Rincon Band "has funded more than 600 non-profit and public agency requests" with a strong emphasis on organizations "that benefit children, youth, families, the military and seniors residing in San Diego's North County," of which all participate in our local Stampede Rodeo.

The Valley Center Stampede Rodeo is part of the Valley Center Western Days festivities taking place over this Memorial Day weekend on May 22, 23 & 24. On Friday and Saturday they will showcase Broncs, Bulls and Barrel Racers; plus the crowd favorite Mutton Bustin' and a youth Boot Scramble Race during intermission.

Rodeo tickets can be purchased at Armstrong Feed & Supply, Joe's Country Feed & Pet and at the gate. Admission to Sunday's rodeo is free and will feature Mounted Shooting and local Team Roping. For more information about the Valley Center Stampede Rodeo visit their website at www.VCStampede.com.