



Angelina Rios, 3, colors her flying horse using a rainbow assortment and shows off her butterfly face painting.

We're off to be a wizard

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Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY — Wizards and magic was the theme for the town of Yucca Valley's Family Fun Day Saturday. Kids took part in activities and crafts at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, while at the community center's soccer field, they enjoyed a Harry Potter-style quidditch tournament.

Children could make their own wands, hats and magic

books, colored animated flying horses and dragons, got their fortune told and brewed potions.

The quidditch tournament was a bit confusing to kids at first, but after a few penalties, they got the hang of it and enjoyed a lot of very aerobic fun. Since the town of Yucca Valley neglected to provide actual flying brooms, children chased each other around the field straddling their foam noodle "brooms," while the team seekers had to chase the nimble Steven Savacool of Yucca Valley High School, who had a snitch attached to his belt.

The highlight of the day was a magic show provided by Joel Ward. Ward gave full-house performances in the morning and afternoon, offering a kid-friendly style of magic that was comical and included audience participation.



Hayli Caygill covered her pink wizard's hat with an assortment of mysterious, magical, foam rune letters.



Gabriel Rodriguez has his fortune told by Madam Vicki Bolton during the Wizards and Magic Family Fun Day.

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For live videos and a photo gallery of the event, visit the Hi-Desert Star website at www.hidesertstar.com.



During the first game of the Wizards and Magic Family Fun quidditch tournament, Gryffindor seeker Haley Ramstorf, 9, won the game for her team by grabbing the snitch from Steven Savacool's belt.



The most popular activity during the town of Yucca Valley's Wizards and Magic Family Fun Day is the magic show by Joel Ward. Ward gave two performances to a packed Yucca Room at the Yucca Valley Community Center Saturday. Ward's comical audience-participation style of magic is particularly enjoyable for kids.



Steven Savacool plays the snitch during the town of Yucca Valley's quidditch tournament Saturday. The seekers for the respective teams had to catch up with Savacool to grab the snitch from his belt. Savacool could employ any evasive maneuver he liked to elude the pursuit.



Gavynn Shealey, 8, shows off the fruits of his wand-making and wizard's-hat-making activity before attending an afternoon performance of the Joel Ward magic show.



A silver sweetie, 7-year-old Hannah Pittman had a blue dolphin painted on her face before coloring her pink flying horse.