We're off to be a wizard

Story and photos by Leslie Shaw
Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY — Wizards and magic were the order of the day at the Yucca Valley Family Fun Day Saturday. Kids took part in activities and events at the Hi-Rise 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 backs, color their own flying horses and dragons, get their fortune told and broom lessons.

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

During the first game of the Wizard and Magic Family Fun Day, Gryffindor seeker Haley Rasmussen, 9, won the game for her team by snatching the snitch from Steven Savacool's belt.

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

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

Giaynn Shewley, 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 sapphire, 7-year-old Hannah Pitman had a blue dolphin painted on her face before coloring her pink flying horse.