Old West rides again at Hi-Desert Nature Museum

By Leslie Shaw
Hi-Desert Star

Staff members of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum outdid themselves for the Wild West Family Fun Day Saturday. They transformed the museum into a Western town complete with saloon and jail and the crafts, activities, bounce house, gold-panning lessons, country music by the Ghostlight Trio and two performances by the Gunfighters For Hire made the event a well-attended success.

The Ride 'em Cowboy exhibit added some educational weight to the day's activities, and the First Class Miners provided a historical exhibit on gold mining while members gave free gold-panning lessons.

The Gunfighters For Hire livened things up with a prank on museum supervisor Lynne Richardson. She was supposed to draw her gun for a Wild West shootout, but the rugged rascal had rigged her pistol to stick in the holster.

The jail provided a photo opportunity and very temporary custody to Basin transgres-sors, Brianna Helin and her friend Brynn Den-ton, both from Joshua Tree and both 12, were incarcerated by the Colorado Kid for eating cookies without a napkin.

First Class Miner Thomas Koch, left, gives Wild West Family Fun Day attendees a tour of old mining equipment. He is seen here showing off an old anemometer, which measures the air flow in a tunnel and eventually replaced canaries as a bad-air warning system.

Joshua Tree resident Joseph Fellbaum, 7, second from right, gets a gold-panning lesson from a First Class Miner. Joseph's brother Andrew, 8, is just to his right.

More photos: www.hidesertstar.com

Bushwacker is the Gunfighters For Hire official town drunk.

Joshua Tree resident Nathan Ater, 5, makes a Western vest out of a brown paper bag.

Edie Armstrong, 8, of Joshua Tree, participates in a bead-stringing craft at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum's Wild West Family Fun Day Saturday.

The Colorado Kid always gets his girls. Twelve-year-old Joshua Tree residents Brynn Denton, left, and Brianna Helin are jailed for eating cookies without a napkin.

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From left, Gunfighters For Hire beauties Charmin' Carmen, Miss Dee, No Nonsense Norma, Lace-Heart and Sweet Caroleene pose for a snap.

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