

# COMMUNITY

## Culture center offers a glimpse of the past

BY DON DECKER,  
YAN News

Take a walk inside of the Nation's culture center and you will see a wide variety of cultural items of the Yavapai-Apache. Some of the items not shown in the lobby are kept under lock in the vault for safe-keeping and is accessible only by appointment for YAN members only. All of the other items on display in the lobby tell the history of the people. Some of the items such as the grinding stone go back to hundreds of years when the state of technology was being without electric power and the food processor was a 200 pound dug-out stone with an attached 10 pound grinder. Good for smashing and grinding mesquite beans, corn and dried meat.

These are just some of the things one can see when they enter the

lobby display area of the culture center.

Much of the display was put in place by the late Judie Piner former coordinator of the Preservation and Technology Center who curated the items.

The culture center attracts many visitors with some as far away as Europe and Asia. Many people stop at the cultural center believing that it is part of the national park associated with Montezuma Castle 2 miles north of the cultural center.

The guest book signatures also leave the footprints of those who visit. The comments are complimentary and show an appreciation for the center and the cultural displays. The farthest visitor is from New Zealand/Australia 7,000 miles from Camp Verde.

The cultural center is opened 5 days a week during regular 8-5 hours.



Baskets and pottery.



Lobby display



Items of antiquity

YAN News photos.

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esting piece that she had was a cradle board with a sewn doll in it. She made the cradle board and all of the sewing associated with it.

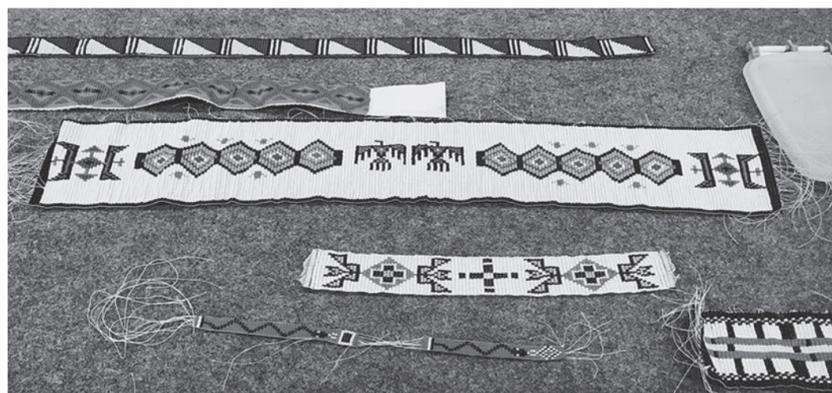
The purpose of the art gathering was to show the community all of the artists who reside in the Verde Valley area who are members of the

Nation and to showcase their work.

A new grant is being developed by the Grant's Office under Robert Mills and assistant Laurie Wathogoma who aim to gather all of the artists in a studio environment whereby accomplished artists will mentor community members.

Ron Juan of Middle Verde is the chairperson of the YAN artist guild.

Ron has been instrumental in organizing the YAN artists and calling them for developmental meetings in the past few months at the cultural center. Now, it is time to move on the anticipated community mentoring art program and there are high hopes that a subsequent grant will pay for the mentoring and supplies when the artist guild is fully implemented.



Beaded belts by Linda Russell

Courtesy photos by Laurie Wathogoma-Grants office/YAN