

VOYAGER celebrates anniversary

FROM P1

even helped spearhead the movement to bring a climbing wall to Ridgway Secondary School.

"We've taken the beginnings and we've grown and grown over the years to where we envision ourselves as a wrap-around agency," said Lisa Thomason, Voyager executive director. "Where there's a gap, we fill it."

Recently, Voyager acquired a headquarters in Ridgway that also serves as a free teen center for youth from 13 to 18 years old. In addition, Voyager offers prevention programs to help promote healthy choices and lifestyles in kids. The organization also has plans to take on a new learning initiative on the subject of bullying in the next year.

"Voyager has blossomed into an enrichment program and isn't just a babysitting program," said Thomason. "We're kind of a catch-all for different programs that should be provided by a recreation district or social services."

Since the teen center's grand opening a year ago, it has served 71 teens. Last summer, Voyager served 95 kids aged five to 12. Thomason expects that number to be over

100 by the time June rolls around. Some of the youth served are even outside of the county, including four kids from San Miguel County and a couple from Montrose County.

The Voyager facility, located on Cora Street in Ridgway, has been touted by program supporters and staff as one of the biggest and most positive changes to the program since 1997. Danelle Hughes, Voyager program manager, said she loves the energy of the building.

"It's so close to the library and the park," she said. "It's a really great space and it's really great for the kids. You can just see the difference."

Laura Thomas, former Voyager executive director and current Ridgway School Board president, cut the ribbon for the Voyager center a year ago. She said she enjoyed being a part of the program she considers an "awesome" asset to the Ouray County community.

"This nonprofit came into existence to provide safe, enriching opportunities for kids when school's not in session," said Thomas. "Voyager has filled an important role where other structures didn't exist because we're so rural."

Voyager loves its new location so much,

there's been discussion about actually purchasing the property. However, that option is still lingering on the horizon.

"Now Voyager is an adult entity and we're looking at having a permanent home," said Thomason. "That's where we want to make our big push next year."

"We really have to do some research first before we decide owning the building is going to be to our benefit," said Hughes. "Voyager, in the future, wants to have a permanent site, but there's a lot of responsibility with that."

Overall, everyone was excited about the milestone the youth program is going to achieve next year.

"It's going to be 20 years old," said Hughes. "It's grown up and it's amazing."



Laura Thomas, former Voyager executive director, helps a Voyager program child cut the ribbon to the program's new headquarters and teen center in October 2015 while Lisa Thomason, current Voyager executive director (center) and John Clark, Ridgway mayor (left), watch. A year later, Voyager staff and supporters agree that the facility is one of the best changes since the program's inception in 1997.

Plaindealer photo by Dalton Carver

Thomason also thanked the community for its support of the Voyager Youth Program.

"We can't do what we do without the government entities, businesses, parents and community as a whole," she said.

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"DO STUFF" BY GAIL GRABOWSKI

- 96 Sports statistic
97 One way to get dinner
98 Broadway director's concern
104 Not just bargain
109 How many raises are given
110 Anger
112 Mason of "The Goodbye Girl"
113 Restrain
116 Cause to fluctuate
117 "American Graffiti" director
119 Kolkata's locale
120 Paddock parent
121 Mental wherewithal
122 Construction site sight
123 Mannerless sort
124 Till stack
125 "He loves me" pieces
126 Hot times abroad
1 Outdoor clothing entrepreneur
2 Craftsman
3 Eddie
4 Broadway president
5 Elected the same year as the younger Bush
6 Overdrive
7 Presidential nickname
8 Transfer to a new city, briefly
9 Sits on the line
10 Godiva
11 alternative
12 Shaggy-haired bovine
13 Lifetime chum
14 Biker's headgear, maybe
15 Sun blocker
16 Legendary prophet
17 Serving on a jury, e.g.
18 Elevated lines?
19 Waterman product
20 Work on a course
21 Early gaming name
22 French royal
23 Craftsman
24 outdoor tools
25 Generous offer
26 Swindle, in slang
27 Instrument that doesn't need tuning
28 "Un Ballo in Maschera" aria
29 Zero out, say
30 Sonic Dash publisher
31 They may be cracked
32 Sports venue
33 Prepared
34 Big wheel's wheels
35 Internet connectivity
36 annoyance
37 IPA component
38 Sound of the Northwest
39 Champagne flute feature
40 Café order
41 Leave, with "off"
42 Colorful pet store purchase
43 Something to shoot for
44 Supplement
45 Looked for
46 National Bike Month
47 Heads and tails
48 Illegal mil. status
49 Paper or plastic
50 Irish lullaby start
51 Surprise in a skit
52 Duplicity
53 Period of time
54 Minimum-range tide
55 Poseidon, e.g.
56 Ketch pair
57 Seemingly can't lose
58 Linney of "The Savages"
59 Athlete's supplement
60 Fail to share
61 AA or AAA
62 "College GameDay" number
63 Short bond?
64 Training routines
65 Hammered
66 From around here
67 Big shoes to fill?
68 "But of course!"
69 Catcher on the range
70 Director Allen who was dubbed the "Master of Disaster"
71 Look daggers (at)
72 Birthday card rack subsection
73 Tiling job supply
74 Mutual agreement
75 Site of the Princess Margaret Stakes
76 Macbeth, when the play began
77 Alleviates
78 "At Wit's End" author
79 Bombeck
80 Zin kin
81 "Always by their side" org.
82 River in Spain
83 Lack of continuity
84 Styling product hidden in eight long puzzle answers

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for clues.

SUDOKU Level: Intermediate

Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

HOW TO SUDOKU:

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Grid of numbers for last week's puzzle answers.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Word search grid with words highlighted.

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