

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

ACROSS

- 1 Udon cousin
- 5 Not at all
- 11 Poker pro's concern
- 15 Weather the storm
- 19 Latin 101 verb
- 20 Albeniz piano work
- 21 Petty of "A League of Their Own"
- 22 Mind matter
- 23 Breakfast item
- 25 Lackluster
- 26 Let it all out
- 27 Blade holder
- 28 Heavy ref.
- 29 Ancient manuscripts
- 31 Gridiron figure
- 33 Bus station compartment
- 39 Bar menu heading
- 41 Zilch
- 42 "Do ___?"
- 43 Decorative outdoor fixture
- 49 TV awareness-raiser
- 52 Action film props
- 53 Cookie shaped like two of its letters
- 54 Throw a feast for
- 55 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner
- 56 Handled bag
- 57 Started war?
- 59 Serious trend
- 60 Category including spacing and margins
- 62 Like some speeches, it seems
- 64 Ruffle feathers, so to speak
- 65 Tells
- 66 Musical with the song "Willkommen"
- 69 Collie collar danglers
- 74 Fugitive
- 76 Left hanging
- 77 Vehicle usage record
- 81 Coil on a reel
- 84 "That's a fact!"
- 85 Comparison words
- 86 Room access
- 87 Masonry mixture
- 89 Streamlet
- 90 "Leaving Las Vegas" co-star
- 91 Decorates mischievously, for short
- 92 Curbside check-in freebie
- 94 Yankee manager before Girardi

- 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

DOWN

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

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SUDOKU Level: Intermediate

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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

2	6	5	4	8	1	9	3	7
1	3	7	5	9	6	2	4	8
9	4	8	3	2	7	6	5	1
6	8	2	9	1	4	5	7	3
7	5	1	8	3	2	4	6	9
3	9	4	7	6	5	8	1	2
5	7	3	2	4	8	1	9	6
8	1	9	6	5	3	7	2	4
4	2	6	1	7	9	3	8	5

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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PLAY JUMBLE!
IN TODAY'S CLASSIFIEDS