



WINTER SPORTS EXTRA INSIDE

Twenty years of Detroit theater inspires young artists

Freshman and junior Norsemen prepare for Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit's 20th anniversary performance.

By Dayle Maas & Jacob Barry
EDITOR & STAFF REPORTER

Freshman Kynadi Echols was 7 years old when she attended Detroit's Annual Noel Night and watched the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit perform. That night's performance sparked an interest, and in three years, she was on stage alongside other young artists like herself.

"I saw the performance there, and it looked like they were having so much fun. I was, like 'Whoa, I wanna do that.' So that just inspired me to be in their summer camp because I wasn't old enough to join their actual company," Echols said.

When Echols was 10 years old, she

auditioned for Mosaic and made it into the main-stage singing company. A year later, junior Cydni Newman also started the program—thanks to Echols.

"I auditioned in the sixth grade, and I was 12 then. I didn't make it then," Newman said. "A couple years later, in the ninth grade, I auditioned again. I made it into the ensemble group, which is like the main stage, the highest ranking, and I've been in ensemble for three years now."

Mosaic is an internationally acclaimed non-profit theater that trains and develops young artists in singing, acting and performing. It was founded in 1992 by Rick Sperling with hopes to give an opportunity to Detroit students without performing arts program at school or for those who just wanted to further their abilities.

"While working as artist-in-residence in the Detroit Public Schools, I saw great need, and I also saw a great opportunity," Sperling said in a letter. "The need I observed was for advanced-level theatre and music training at a time when budget cuts had led to the elimination of most school-based arts programs. The opportunity I saw was to create a world-class youth arts organization based on the incredible talent of young people throughout Detroit."

Over the past 20 years, Mosaic's young artists have performed at the White House for President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. They also performed for Mayor Dave Bing and at the Kennedy Center. This year, Mosaic's 20th anniversary, the group is performing a compilation of their best scenes and songs of past shows.

Echols describes it like a mosaic of Mosaic. Some of the "best of the best" shows include *Now That I Can Dance*, *Everybody's Talking*, *Magnificat*, *What Fools These Mortals Be* and a Mosaic original, *Crossing 8 Mile*.

Crossing 8 Mile is about twins; one grows up in the city and the other in the suburbs.

"Their paths intertwine and, you know, (it shows) the stereotypes about the suburbs and the city kids, and when you actually saw and looked at it, you saw people are people," Echols said.



COURTESY OF THE NEWMAN FAMILY
Junior Cydni Newman performs in a Mosaic original, *Northern Lights* 1966.

Do they ever get nervous on stage?
"Oh my gosh, yes," Newman said.

"I am getting excited because all of the alumni that have been in the shows over the 20 years will be there, so I guess (there's) a little bit of pressure because you gotta ... be better than them?" Echols said of the 20th anniversary show. "And some of these shows were excellent. It's some pressure, but it's exciting."

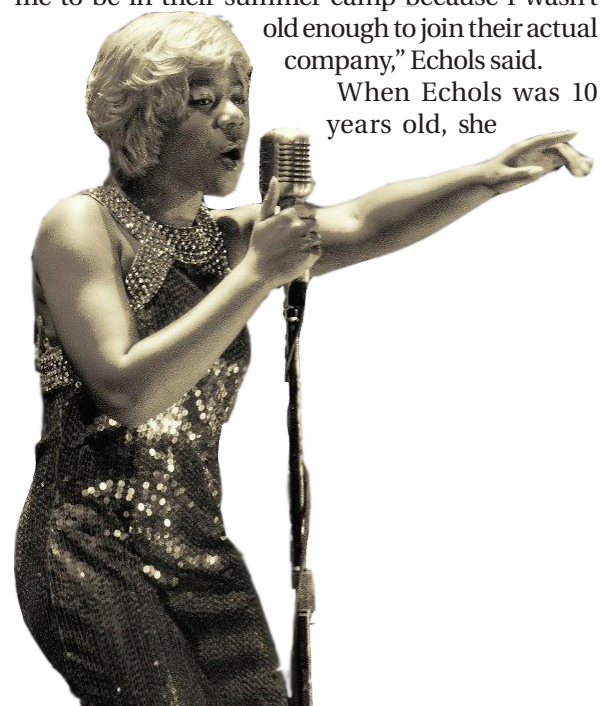
Mosaic does more than prepare young artists for a life of performing. In order for young artists to remain in Mosaic, they must maintain required grades. Mosaic also provides young artists with a professional work environment.

Both Newman and Echols would like to pursue a career in the performing arts. Newman would like to perform on Broadway, and Echols aspires to be a recording artist.

"Mosaic alumni have also become successful lawyers, teachers, bankers and social workers," Newman said. "So it's not like you come there to just be actors, you could be whatever you want to be. You come there to do what you love. It shapes you for the future."

While the girls may take a path in life other than performing arts, both say it has played an important role in their lives.

"I'm just doing something that I love for me," Newman said. "You would never imagine it's touching someone else, too."



COURTESY OF THE ECHOLS FAMILY
Freshman Kynadi Echols sings in a Mosaic performance, *Now That I Can Dance Motown* 1962.

For some teens, job search yields disappointment

By Patricia Bajis
STAFF REPORTER

Da Edoardo, Salvatore Scallopini, Breadsmith, Beach Grill, Jefferson Beach Marina, lifeguarding at Grosse Pointe Woods pool: the extensive job search ended unsuccessfully for junior Cait Gaitley.

"It's a disappointment that I applied for so many jobs and ended up with none. Most of them told me that I didn't have enough time to do it and that they wanted someone for the school year," Gaitley said.

With a teen unemployment rate of nearly 24%, according Bureau of Labor Statistics, part time work is becoming increasingly harder to find. It also reports that 8.3 million adults have taken part time jobs due to cutbacks or inability to find full time work. Part-time jobs are now being taken by the newly unemployed, making it harder for anyone ages 16 to 19 to find or keep a job.

Senior Lauren McLeod worked with a boy her age at Burger Works in Eastland Mall until he was replaced by an older woman. Needing to keep her job, McLeod works long hours and night shifts to secure her place.

"This last pay check, I worked 29 hours in two weeks. I work about three to four days a week. I work any day they call me. They tell me every Sunday what day I work and for how long, but if they call me in, I go in – so it might be extra days," McLeod said.

For McLeod, her job helps provide for her family and takes equal importance

THE WORKING TEEN

51% DROP IN SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OF TEENS FROM 2000 TO 2010

20 HOURS A WEEK ON AVERAGE FOR A TEEN TO WORK

2/3 OF TEENS HAVE WORKED SINCE AGE 15

14.2% INCREASE IN TEEN SUMMER EMPLOYMENT IN 2012

to school.

"I like to have my own money so my parents don't have to take it out of their pocket. I don't want to work, and my parents say I don't have to, but I have seen them struggle, so I feel like I need to," she said. "I live in a single-parent home, so if my mom doesn't get paid, I'll give her money to use however she wants or I'll keep gas in her car or sometimes I'll put food in the refrigerator. I try to help out."

McLeod has to sacrifice time for school work to put in her hours at Burger Works. She spends about an hour on homework a night.

Sports survey provides opportunity for parent, athlete feedback

By Sara Villani & Natalie Skorupski
STAFF REPORTERS

GPPSS recently made an addition to the plethora of forms students and parents can fill out at their leisure – an athletic survey that can now be found on North's website.

This survey prompts athletes, their parents and coaches to summarize the most recent season, allowing the district to reflect on and change the way a program is run.

"The purpose of the survey is to get feedback from our stakeholders in their athletic experience. We hope that the responses will help us make improvements to provide the best experience for our student athletes," Ben Bandfield, athletic director, said.

The student survey opens by asking basic questions, such as gender and sport competed in, before it delves into the experience in the student's season, as well as a coach evaluation.

"I think any time you can gather information about any topic there is always a benefit," Bandfield said. "We are always striving for improvement in all facets of the athletic department and if the information produced by this survey can assist us in that goal, it will be a success."

There has been no mention of making the survey mandatory, but it has already received positive reception from fall coaches.

INFOGRAPHIC
Checking your newsfeed while playing splat in Team Sports is a bad idea for obvious reasons, but there's another. Wi-Fi coverage in the gym is poor. See a topographical map of the rest of the building's coverage inside.

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ACT TESTING
Saturday, Dec. 8 at 8 a.m.

HANUKKAH BEGINS
Sundown on Dec. 8

GPN HOLIDAY CONCERT
Dec. 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church across the street

GIRLS BASKETBALL GAME
Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY GAME
Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at City Rink against South

BOYS BASKETBALL GAME
Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at South High

IDEAS

“NEITHER OF MY PARENTS OR OLDER SIBLINGS EVER TOLD ME ANYTHING THAT WAS GOING ON, SO WE PLAYED LIKE LITTLE KIDS DID - WITHOUT WORRIES.”

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FIVE MINUTES WITH

Lifeskills teacher Cynthia Kyriakoza

By Gabby Burchett & Izzy Ellery
EDITOR & ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Behavioral Analysis Unit in the crime show *Criminal Minds* searches rural Oklahoma. Women are found dead after having been robbed of one of their five senses.

Lifeskills teacher Cynthia Kyriakoza has a thirst for this type of entertainment. Anything from *Criminal Minds* to mystery novels, it's a self-described obsession that dates back to her middle school years.

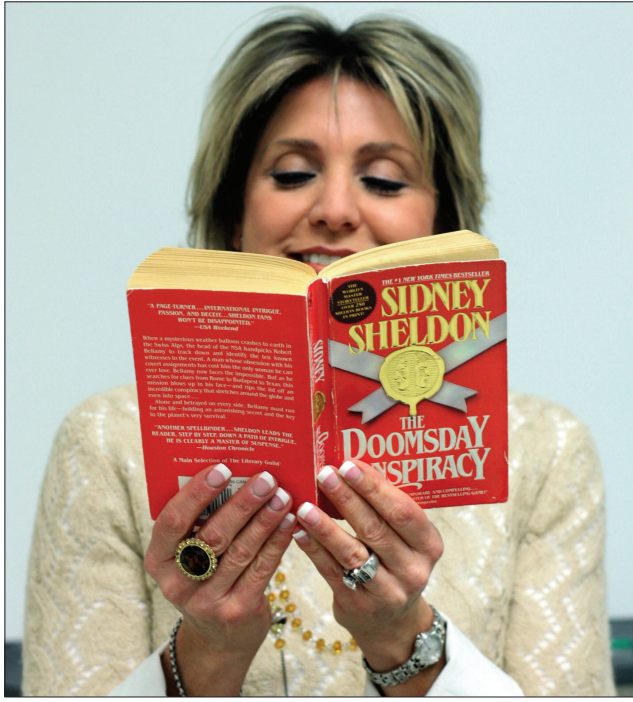
"When I was in middle school, I read the Nancy Drew series. I'll never forget that," she said. "But when I was younger, the television shows that attracted me were all the police shows. I was one of those weird kids. I watched police shows all the time."

One of seven children, she found that watching and reading the genre was the one hobby she could do alone.

"I was always a very curious person, and I think that's really what it came down to, just the curiosity. I don't like gore and blood, it was more the suspense, the mystery of it," she said. "It was one thing you could do by yourself, and you could figure something out. I was the only one in the family that liked it, and it was something that was my own."

Now, after her day of teaching at South High School in the morning and North in the afternoon, she fits in time to read mystery novels by Sidney Sheldon and watch *Criminal Minds*.

"I love cop shows. *Criminal Minds* is one of my favorite shows," Kyriakoza said. "It's all about behavior analysis – why people do what they do. I watch them, then rewatch them and record them. My husband thinks I'll have nightmares. But it's so cool. I could sit and watch a *Criminal Minds* marathon, and I



Lifeskills teacher Cynthia Kyriakoza enjoys mystery and crime shows and books.

Did you play any sports in high school?

I tried to go out for the boys football team when I was a freshman, but they told me I had to leave. I was a huge tomboy. I played baseball, not softball. Flag football, not powderpuff.

What is your favorite thing about Grosse Pointe?

To me, you guys have frozen in time, in a good way. The sense of community and the cuteness of downtown is great, or the drive down Lakeshore – you can't beat that. You're really keeping the sense of family.

If you could live anywhere, where would you live?

I don't have a specific place, but I would want to live close enough to a city, but still in a rural atmosphere. I love the outside. Anytime I'm outside, on my back porch or something.

What was the best vacation you took?

I went to Cancun for my son's senior trip, and I loved it. It was so relaxing. But anything with (my) kids. I remember we went to Disney World and went parasailing. Any trip is a blessing.

What is your favorite season?

It's between spring and fall. I love when the trees are just blooming or turning color. The fall reminds me of growing up when I was in high school, like the football games. And the spring is when my birthday is.

Sports survey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The survey helps better the athletic program where we are strong, where we are weak, and the program as a whole. And it tells coaches what they did right and wrong, and the players' opinion and the parents' opinion," Skip Mukhtar, boys soccer coach, said. "That's important as a coach, just to develop every single day. You want to get better, and you want to hear from your players and parents. There might be things you did off the field that were very good and you want to hear praises and also what you messed up doing."

This is Mukhtar's first year coaching at North. Schools he coached at before took surveys but did not share the information with coaches. North is different; Bandfield has already issued that the results will be known and shared.

"The original survey was taken from

a peer district and tailored to meet our needs in GPPSS by our athletic directors," Jon Dean, Superintendent for Educational Services, said. "As a district we are always engaged in regularly review of our programs and offerings. By obtaining stakeholder feedback we should better be able to validate our programming and make future programming decisions."

Though adopted from districts like Rochester and Birmingham, the decision to adjust the survey to Grosse Pointe's needs was determined by the athletic directors, principals, and central office administrators.

Being the first season in which the survey has been available, many student athletes have not yet been informed of this new performance review.

"At the end of the day, the athletes are the most important part of high school sports," Matt Giacona, a senior on the boys soccer team, said. "And the survey allows them to highlight the good and bad aspects of their sport season/program."

16. Please respond to the following:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
The pay-for-participation fee for this sport did not create a financial hardship for my family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The fund-raising requirements did not create a financial hardship for my family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The team was provided with the proper equipment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The team was provided with the proper facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

These are some example questions from the sports survey that athletes and parents can answer online at the North website to better their sports experience.

12. During this season, the coach(es) provided me:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Encouragement to perform at my best academically	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encouragement to perform at my best athletically	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technical knowledge and training to perform at my best athletically	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clear expectations for compliance with school rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clear expectations for compliance with team rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specific explanations about safety in practice and in competition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities for honest communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frequent examples of proper adult behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Teenage employment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I do try to study for tests and do homework assignments, but sometimes I'm at work too late. I talked to one of my teachers and he (said) something like, 'You could have gotten up and did it.' I get four hours of sleep sometimes; I can't get up and do homework."

As for senior Kyleigh Mathewson, her job at the restaurant Cleopatra's isn't a choice, it's a necessity.

"I have my job to support myself. I don't live with my parents. I live with my boyfriend and his family," Mathewson said. "I pay for my own phone bill, I pay for my own medical bills, I'll be paying for a car myself, housing myself, (and) food. I get by with the bare minimum of what you can buy and support yourself with. Since I don't pay for my house right now, that kind of helps."

Holding a job for almost a year, Mathewson finds herself missing out on things because of her commitment to work.

"I can't go on field trips because I have to go work or I can't participate in after school activities at all. I don't ever go to games or anything. You just miss out on like certain stuff that might be going on."

Though the dedication to work inflicts on time for other activities, it has taught her valuable lessons.

"You have to be able to manage your time well and do things on impulse. You have to prioritize everything you do and

you can't really call out of work," she said. "You can't miss work. So it's just something you have to get over and learn to accept. You kind of get over it and realize that you're going to be working probably until you're like 50 or 60."

Determined not to give up her extracurricular, senior Bre Reveley balances four jobs and her passion for volleyball.

"I work at the library, where I shelve books. I coach a 13-(year-old) state level team for volleyball, ref volleyball games at the Neighborhood Club and babysit on the weekends," Reveley said.

Practicing with her own team three to four days a week for two and a half hours, Reveley needed her jobs to be flexible.


"I work at least four hours at the library. I have my volleyball practices, and then I coach right after that for two hours, so it's four hours for that. And then reffing takes about three hours, and babysitting just depends."

Though demanding, not all jobs are easily available. Senior Alison Alexsy applied to Little Caesars, Jets, Starbucks, Caribou and Big Boy until getting her job at Jimmy Johns. She is one of few high school students, working alongside co-workers of 25 and above.

"It was kind of a risk for them to hire me because I can't work the slicer or anything because you have to be 18 to do it. The only reason I got it was because I had a really good interview and they liked how I looked," Alexsy said. "They told me there were going to call me back and they didn't so I took it upon myself to call them back and it basically showed them that I was serious about the job."

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58" OF BASE AT CABERFAE 45" OF BASE AT ALPINE VALLEY



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