



Photo by Alex Filipe

Mourners attend a vigil at Queen's University in memory of Iranian student Amir Moradi, who was killed in the crash of a Ukrainian passenger plane near Tehran. For more photos, see pages 4-5.

A country mourns for lives lost

By Alex Filipe

"We cannot express our feelings through words right now," explained Amin Haghnegahdar, a member of The Iranian Students Association of Queen's University, speaking about the tragic loss of a friend and classmate.

Haghnegahdar was one of hundreds of people who filled the John Deutsch University Centre Friday evening for a vigil to remember their classmate, friend and family member, Amir Moradi.

Moradi, 21, was a Queen's arts and sciences student who was on board Ukraine International Airlines flight 752 which was tragically shot down shortly after it left Tehran's international airport in the early hours of January the 8th.

"This is a particularly painful thing to reflect on," said Queen's University Prin-

cipal, Patrick Deane to those at the vigil. "Queen's University is about realizing the potential, ambitions and aspirations of every individual who makes up this community. We feel painfully at the loss of Amir and everyone who died on that flight."

After the opening remarks, the media were asked to leave while mourners shared their thoughts and memories of Moradi.

Mourners left flowers and wrote messages alongside two photos of the undergraduate student. Images of other flight 752 passengers were also hung on a nearby wall. The event was organized by The Iranian Students Association of Queen's University as a way to remember Moradi as well as the other passengers of flight 752.

"Today means a lot, they all were like friends to us," said Haghnegahdar. "Most

'There are many futures that remain unfulfilled because of this tragedy.'

Queen University's Patrick Deane

of the passengers were students like us - It could have been any of us on that plane. Some of my friends wanted to be on that flight, but changed their mind at the last minute. I'm really just shocked and sad for this tragedy. We are honoring all of them tonight."

The vigil for Moradi was just one in a handful of other vigils held for the 57 Canadians killed after Iran mistakenly shot down Ukraine International Airlines flight 752. "Human error at time of crisis caused by

US adventurism led to disaster," Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif tweeted.

In an interview with Global National's Dawna Friesen on Monday Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke on the tragedy saying "This is something that happens when you have conflict and war. Innocents bear the brunt of it and it is a reminder why all of us need to work so hard on de-escalation, moving forward to reduce tensions and find a pathway that doesn't involve further conflict and killing."

The tragic event happened moments after Iran launched attacks on Iraqi bases housing American and Canadian troops. The attacks were made as a retaliation to the American assassination of a top Iranian general, Qasem Soleimani.

During his remarks at the Queen's University vigil, Deane touched on the prior military ac-

tions taken by both America and Iran. "This tragedy occurred in the middle of a really terrifying period of potential global conflict," he said.

Iran's admission to shooting down the passenger plane sparked protests Saturday with thousands pouring into main squares around Tehran. That same day, Trudeau said he was "furious" and "outraged" at the Iranian government.

"Canada will not rest until we get the accountability, justice and closure that the families deserve," Trudeau said at a press conference. "Canada and the world still have many questions... questions that must be answered."

While international leaders look outward for answers, Canadian students look inward at a time of remembrance and mourning.

"There are many futures that remain unfulfilled because of this tragedy," said Deane.

Drag show delights all ages

By Jessica Munro

A foggy and rainy Saturday afternoon didn't stop colourfully dressed drag queens and kings from performing a family-friendly, all-ages drag show at the popular Focus Coffee Bar in downtown Belleville.

Creator and host of the show, Annihilation, performed with drag queen Corky 'the Bearded Barbie', as well as two drag kings, Dare de LaFemme and Vinny Von Vinci.

Drag refers to wearing clothing, usually of the opposite gender. A show is performed by drag queens or kings who sing or lip-sync, and dance to songs.

"It's a really inclusive space," Annihilation says, discussing why she chose Focus Coffee Bar as the host of the drag event. "Pride events have been done here before, so I know it's safe and accessible because it's right downtown."

She has previously performed at 116 Bistro, where she'll be doing monthly events. Annihilation hopes to have more than just Kingston queens performing at her events and is soon hoping to reach out to drag queens and kings in Ottawa and Brockville.

Because the show was in a coffee shop, there was no age barrier, unlike most drag shows, explains Annihilation. "Just because events can get racy and we have performers who are a little more mature. So, this was one of our few all-ages shows."

The show ran from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and approximately 20 to 30 supporters came out and watched the set. One of those fans, MacKenna, was celebrating her 14th birthday party at the coffee bar and had a chance to dance with all four

performers while they lip synced her favourite song, *Good as Hell* by Lizzo, followed by singing of *Happy Birthday* from everyone watching.

A supporter and a Loyalist College alumni member, Sabrina Morin, says she really enjoyed the show. "I'm so pleased to see the community is actually coming around with today's up-and-coming interests and society."

In the past, Kingston's drag scene wasn't as diverse as it is now. "In the past couple of years, Tyffanie Morgan, a Kingston queen, has really made the effort to include more types of drag," says Annihilation.

It's not just men dressed as drag queens anymore, Annihilation explains during her show. "For a while, it was just cis male drag queens. It was lame."

"I identified as a drag queen, and some (people) assigned female at birth (AFAB) like to distinguish that they're AFAB, but I don't feel the need to do that because I'm a drag queen so just call me a drag queen. I don't need my own special category."

"In the Belleville area, I've had such a positive response to what I do. I think Belleville has a large gay community; it's just hidden because we don't have a lot of events. We've had more recently, the more people who find out about things the more they'll come out and every time it's been super positive."

Annihilation began dressing and performing as a drag queen last March.

"A lot of people, they don't want to accept the changes that people are making these days," says Morin. "Very big kudos to Focus Coffee Bar staff here for an absolutely wonderful show and I can't wait for more."



Photo by Jessica Munro

Annihilation, creator and host of the family friendly drag show, performs one of her songs to the crowd on Jan. 11 at the Focus Coffee Bar in Belleville. Community members came out and supported the show. For more photos, see page 6.



Photo by Alex Filipe

Belle and the Beast, students from Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf, rehearse for the school's Beauty & the Beast play. The play will be performed entirely through American Sign Language (ASL). For more photos, see page 7.

A musical with signing, not singing

By Alex Filipe

Putting on a highschool play comes with a host of difficulties, the wardrobe, the sets and of course the remembering of one's lines. But for students at Belleville's Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf, their lines aren't spoken, they are signed.

"We start with the English lines, then it is translated into American Sign Language, or ASL. So they have to memorize their lines but it isn't dependent on the paper, as they have to memorize them in ASL," explained co-director and drama

teacher Lianne Valiquette.

Since ASL is expressed through movements of the hands and face, actors can't just memorize their lines from a piece of paper. However, staff members at Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf have found a solution.

"There is a lot more technology involved," explained Valiquette. "We do a lot of videotaping of the lines into ASL which then the students are responsible for watching to memorize their lines."

As if it wasn't complicated enough, the production this year is the musical *Beauty*

& *The Beast*. The difficulties in timing the music and acting is compounded when those actors can't hear the music being played.

"Something unique we've done this year is chosen a musical, which is *Beauty & The Beast*. So given that, not only are we working on translating the script into ASL, but we're also working on coordinating our student's timing with the music," said co-director and drama/stage design teacher Jadine Reynolds.

While they may be facing many challenges, the students are enjoying over-

coming the obstacles to reach their moment in the spotlight.

"This role has been a lot of work," explained Raine Folley, a Grade 12 student playing *The Beast*. "It's been hard memorizing all the lines, but I really enjoy the parts where I can be scary, big and larger than life."

Folley's sentiments are echoed by classmate and *The Beast's* main antagonist Gaston, aka Tyson Purdy. "It's been a great experience, a lot of practicing, memorizing lines. It's been challenging, especially, all the turn-taking and

practising of my lines to become Gaston."

From managing lighting cues to dance scenes, a full ASL musical adds challenges that many of those who are not deaf wouldn't even think of. But for organizers Lianne Valiquette, Jadine Reynolds, Norbert Irion, Jenn Rowles, Kristina Westrom and Lucy Baily, overcoming those challenges shows their students and the world that no matter the disability, everyone has the ability to do the extraordinary.

"I'm proud of everyone," said Valiquette. "They have all worked very hard this semester."

Band tackles Black Sabbath music

By Damon MacLean

The level of controversy around legendary Ozzy Osbourne never ends, from announcing his retirement from music on multiple occasions, biting bats' heads off on stage, and having his own reality show with the rest of the family. Osbourne sure loves any attention that he can draw to himself.

Osbourne's band, Black Sabbath, decided to call it quits and hang up their instruments along with their glory. However, the impact Osbourne and Black Sabbath made on the world and the creation of the metal genre continues to ripple on.

It is a difficult task to fill the shoes of 'The Prince of Darkness,' which the almighty Ronnie James 'Dio' faced for taking over Osbourne's position in the first heavy metal band. The songs from all the various versions of Black Sabbath are a true testament of timeless innovation.

The band may no longer be playing arenas, but they have inspired a group of four female rockers to form their own cover band, Black Sabbitch. Black Sabbitch is no run-of-the-mill cover band playing in local bars to an audience ignoring them for whatever the cheap draft of the night is.

Black Sabbitch was selected by Ozzy and his wife Sharon Osbourne to open the first Ozzfest. They have even caught the attention of frontman of the Foo Fighters and former member of Nirvana, Dave Grohl, who said that he was "spellbound" by the band's performance and antics.

Belleville metal fans were treated to an evening of heavy metal Tuesday at The Empire Theatre performed by Black Sabbitch. The night began as soon as the clock struck 7:30 and the band erupted into the timeless *War Pigs*. The energy on stage captivated the crowd's attention, never faltering.

With the recent passing of Rush's drummer Neil Peart, Canada and the metal community has been suffering. Many at Tuesday night's concert were wearing merchandise to commemorate the passing of the great Canadian icon.

The crowd remained seated for the expansive setlist covering a vast selection of the metal god's library. Vocalist Alice Austin made a couple of remarks between songs including, "that's how you keep warm in Canada" referring to rocking out. The band never hindered their performance and tried to keep the crowd engaged, including a count-off lead by drummer Angie Scarpa.

Scarpa told the crowd, "This is the part where do some crowd participation. Can you count to four?" The crowd laughed and heckled their answers. "I am going to say one, two, then you will count to four. Got it?" "One-two" Scarpa said and the crowd altogether yelled "One, two, three four" mistaking Scarpa's intentions.

Scarpa replied, "I was originally going to say you should have heard Montreal last night, but wow!" This was greeted with a wave of hoorah.

Although the crowd appeared to be unfamiliar with some of the deep cuts within the band's setlist, they continued to bop their heads and drink their beer in rock 'n' roll fashion. The highlights of the night included funky in the right way bass lines played by Melanie Makaiwi, an intense crowd-absorbing drum solo by Scarpa, progressive riffs from guitarist Emily Burton and of course, the shrill but angelic voice of Alice Austin.

The remaining dates of the bands tour are in the United States only. Hopefully, Belleville left a memorable impact on the band as a representation of the country.



Photo by Damon MacLean

Black Sabbitch brought the metal and hard rock anthems of Black Sabbath to the Empire Theatre. The quartet brought their stage antics and energetic live performances led by vocalist Alice Austin.



Photo by Damon MacLean

Amanda Jetté Knox gave a speech alongside her partner Zoe in Alumni Hall at Loyalist College. The event bridged the gap between allies and members of the LGBTQ2+S community and allowed them to witness the first-hand real story of the Knox family.

Family faces shifting dynamics

By Damon MacLean

Today's family dynamic has shifted and developed into something new, ignoring the foundations and principles that once existed. This is not something to fear, however, according to author Amanda Jetté Knox.

Knox was invited to Loyalist College on Tuesday evening, alongside her partner Zoe, to give a speech and promote her book, *Love Lives Here*.

Knox's world changed when her middle child came out as transgender in 2014 and they knew that they were living in the wrong body. The courage presented by their now daughter fostered some bravery of Zoe's own, and she as well came out as a transgender in the months following.

"I think our story is one worth telling. I think we need more positive stories in the queer community," Knox said.

Released this past July, the award-winning *Love Lives Here* depicts her family life and the rollercoaster that life can be. Having a family of four children, two daughters and two sons alone can be challenging. A shifting dynamic of one member coming out as trans comes with complications. Having two members come out as trans can cause even more.

"Sometimes, foundations are a little bit rickety," said Knox, referring to her youth. "In my case, I grew up on the Gatineau side of Ottawa. I had a really tough time fitting in. I was ostracized at an early age, being an English kid at a French school. I was re-

ally quirky and outgoing but I shut down very quickly due to relentless bullying. All I wanted was to fit in and have people like me."

The harassment endured by Knox was vile and included being lit on fire and being attacked with a metal lunchbox. The bullying she faced allowed her to develop an ability for unconditional love and acceptance.

Knox came to terms with the idea of unconditional love and now spreads her message at any opportunity that comes her way. The sense of isolation and being an outsider were emotions that Knox didn't feel her family deserved to experience. She embraced her family and the community with arms wide open.

Sarah Hoffer, a faculty member in the

child and youth care program at the college, introduced Knox and her family members.

"I am absolutely thrilled to have everyone here and the evening we have in store for us," said Hoffer before Knox spoke. The crowd filled Alumni Hall, which was decorated with flags representing different elements of the LGBTQ2+ community.

Hoffer reflected on the first time she heard Knox's story. She picked up an audio book copy of *Love Lives Here* for a drive from the Stirling area to Ottawa.

"I got to Ottawa and I wanted to keep on driving and then I turned around and came back to Stirling and I still wanted to keep on driving. I think I talked about the book for ages and ages," Hoffer paused.

"The book was so honest, raw and real. Having Amanda read it to me as I drove and drove made it even more real.

Hoffer shared the book and a young child named Jack who responded by saying, 'Wouldn't it be great if we could hear Amanda's story?' Eric Hargreaves, program facilitator of SAY OutLoud reached out to Knox and started putting the event in motion.

The story was a glimpse into a life most people don't experience and provided the audience with new insight, as well as providing a place for members of the LGBTQ2+ community to hear a story of hope and love.

Everyone left the auditorium with rainbow bracelets given out by Hargreaves.

Firefighters ready to good down under when needed

By Deepak Sharma

The world is both crying and praying for Australia.

Australians are experiencing one of their worst-ever bushfires season, and this is not the first time Australia has faced a bushfires disaster. It is estimated that more than 800 people have died in bushfires since 1851.

The bushfires in Australia started in September of last year and continue to rage on. The current fires have already destroyed more than 14 million acres of land and killed more than 20 people. The main region of the bushfire is Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. There was rain for some

time which helped a lot, but the area affected by the fires was so big that the disaster continued.

Australia is getting help from all over the world and Canada is also showing their helping hands to Australia. Canada has already sent more than 150 firefighters to Australia, who are working in different parts of the affected area, to help put an end to the fires.

"No one from Belleville or Quinte went to Australia, but we are all ready to do volunteer work," says Belleville firefighter Jim Donovan.

According to a report, an estimated 480 million animals have been killed in the bushfire and at least 25,000 koalas have also died. Major cities

of Australia like Melbourne, Sydney and Perth are also facing dangerous levels of air quality due to the bushfires. Many people from around the world are donating money in different ways to help the Australian people, and Red Cross Canada is also helping through fundraising. The Red Cross is ready to help and is also sending food and help for shelter to those people who have lost their homes to the bushfires.

"It's all about giving back and that's what make us Canadian. When we need help, people help us and when people need help, we help them," Donovan says.

According to NASA, "Smoke from the massive bushfires in Australia will soon circle the earth back to the nation." The main cause of the bushfires this

year is the long-term drought in southern Australia. There are many other causes of bushfires like lightning strikes, but there are also many human related causes, like accidental ignition, arson, cigarettes, faulty electrical wires and many more.

"When we are out in nature, if we see fire, we should put it out to stay safe and keep everyone safe," Donovan says.

In a tweet, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said, "Thank you to the U.S., Canada, N.Z. and Singapore, who are providing support to help us fight these terrible bushfires, including firefighters, helicopters and troops. We deeply appreciate the many other international friends who have offered support."

Sock donations will go to support homeless people

By Deepak Sharma

Homelessness is a worldwide problem and in every country, there are many homeless people. In Canada, one per cent of the population is homeless and most of them are single adult men. There are many reasons behind this, but the main reasons are mental health, poverty, unemployment and addiction of drugs. In the winter season, awareness of the homelessness issue motivates many people to help address this problem.

The We Be Us community group has organized an event called 20K Sock Day to collect socks for homeless people from all over Canada. The 20K Sock Day is an initiative to collect 20,000 pairs of socks to donate to Canadian shelters. This event is held annually from the first week of November and through to Feb. 21. Volunteers go to different schools or organizations to encourage people to donate socks for homeless people.

"There are dozens of people from all over the Canada who always show up to volunteer for this initiative, so we get lot of support from community," says local organizer Nick Foley.

On Feb. 21, We Be Us and other partners will be donating socks to homeless shelters, to help the 200,000 Canadians who experience homelessness every year.

"We have different people from coast

to coast, different communities, different cities from different provinces getting involved in schools and other businesses. They try to collect as many socks as they can and donate them to charity across the country and to aware people about homelessness in Canada," Foley says.

We Be Us collects socks from across Canada and give them to specific areas. For example, the socks donated in Belleville they will give to Belleville charities so that they can give socks to homeless people in this area.

There are many reasons behind people become homeless, but the most common reason is people have low incomes and housing is hard to find on a low income. In winter, when the temperature is between -30 or -40, it is difficult, and dangerous to sleep outside.

"Socks are the most commonly requested items for the homeless. That's why we choose to collect socks for them," Foley says.

The organization hopes to collect 20,000 socks. Last year, they were able to collect 28,000 pairs, so for this year, the target is to collect 50,000, Foley says.

There are booths at Loyalist College where people can donate socks and help the We Be Us community in their initiative.

For more information, people can contact the group at reachus@webeus-community.com.



Photo by Deepak Sharma

Volunteers Dorothy Ashford-Smith from the paramedics program and Ryan Peddigrew from journalism accept donations for the We Be Us community to collect socks for their 20k Sock day event.



(Left) Mourners attend a vigil at Queen's University, Kingston, in memory of Iranian student Amir Moradi, who was killed in the crash of a Ukrainian passenger plane near Tehran, on Jan. 10.

(Right) Ramin Jalalpour attends a vigil in memory of his cousin and Iranian student Amir Moradi.

Photos by Alex Filipe

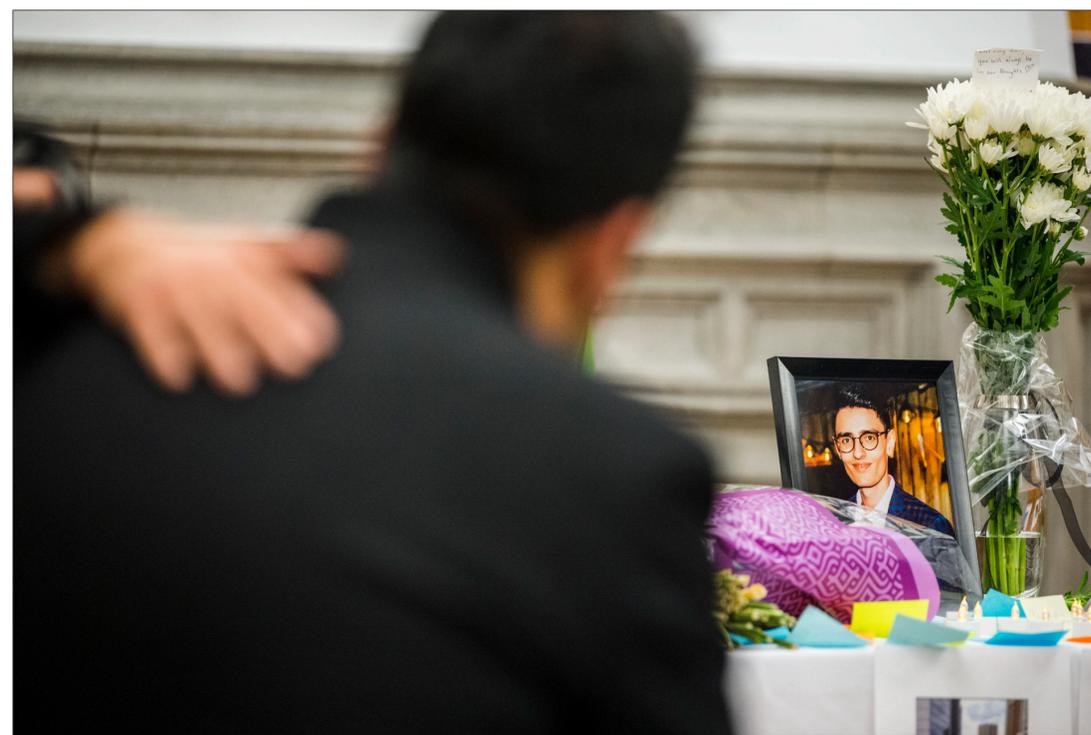


Photo by Daniel Geleyn

Hundreds of students and staff from Queen's University came to reflect and to pay their respect for the victims of the Jan. 8 plane crash in Tehran. Amir Moradi, 21, a Queen's University arts and science student, was among the 176 people who died in the accident.



Many wept during the vigil in memory of Iranian student Amir Moradi.

Photo by Alex Filipe



(Above) Mourners attend a vigil in memory of Iranian student Amir Moradi during the special ceremony.

Photo by Alex Filipe

(Left) During the vigil last week at Queen's University, many of those attending left flowers and notes of support.

Photo by Daniel Geleyn



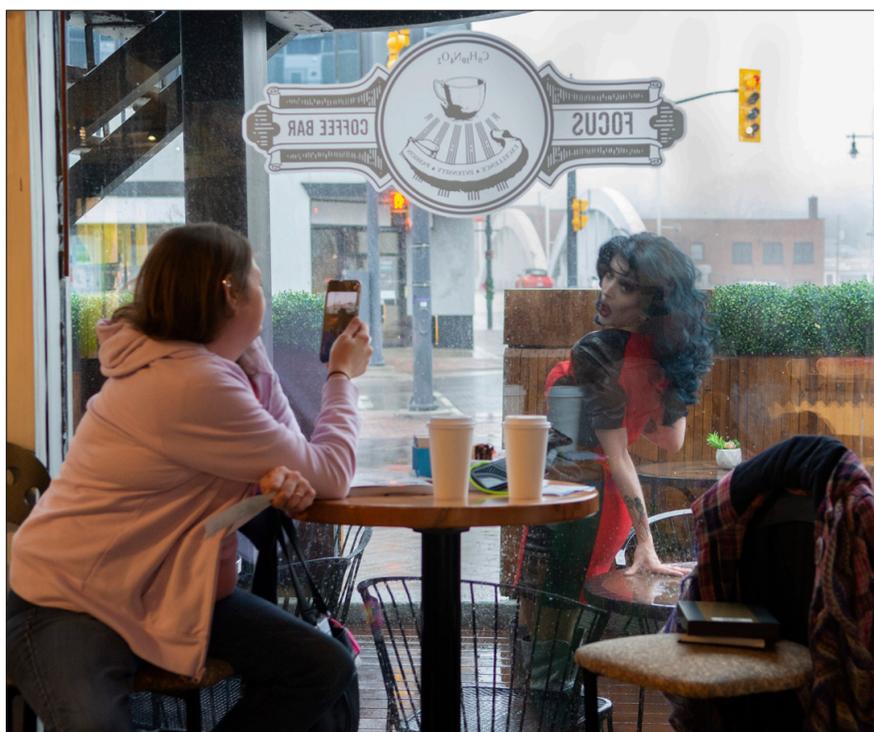
Birthday girl, MaKenna, 14, dances with the drag queens and kings at their all-ages, family friendly event on Jan. 11 at Focus Coffee Bar in Belleville. They performed her favourite song, *Good as Hell* by Lizzo, and the crowd sang her *Happy Birthday*.



(Above) A young girl watches as drag queen Annihilation talks to the crowd at Focus Coffee Bar.

(Below) Annihilation delights the audience during the show. Annihilation and three other drag queens and kings performed, Dare de LaFemme, Vinny Von Vinci and Corky.

Photos by Jessica Munro



Sarah Jones, a Loyalist alumni, takes a video of drag queen Annihilation. For Annihilation's last song, she went outside and danced in the rain.



Drag king Dare de LaFemme performs his first song, *The Greatest Show*, at Focus Coffee bar.





The student cast of *Beauty & The Beast*, a production by Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf, celebrates after a dress rehearsal.



Photos by Alex Filipe

Raine Folley, a Grade 12 student playing The Beast, rehearses a scene alongside classmate Tyson Purdy who plays Gaston.



(Above) Gaston and Belle, students from Sir James Whitney school for the Deaf, rehearse for the school's *Beauty & the Beast* play.

(Left) Gaston, Tyson Purdy, communicates his lines through American Sign Language.



Belle and the Beast, students from Sir James Whitney school for the Deaf, act out a scene during a recent dress rehearsal.