

# COMMUNITY

SECTION B

Also Sports, Religion and Classifieds

MARCH 6, 2014



## Community Calendar

### Free sign language workshops

A sign language workshop series will be hosted at the Central Library, 660 W. Fifth St., every Wednesday at 6 p.m. during the month of March. Barry "Jonny AppleSign" Geller will lead the workshops, which are free and open to those of all levels. Call 336-703-3026 for more information.

### "Gospel and Gumbo"

The Delta Fine Arts, Inc. will hold the "Gospel and Gumbo" fundraiser today (Thursday, March 6) from 6-8 p.m. The evening will include networking opportunities, good food and dynamic gospel music. The featured vocalist will be Tiquila Wilson, a 2013 "American Idol" contestant. The St. Paul United Methodist Men's Choir will also perform, and Christian book authors and other vendors will be on hand. The gumbo is being donated by various restaurants, including Sweet Potatoes. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Call 336-722-2625 or visit [www.deltaartscenter.org](http://www.deltaartscenter.org) for tickets or more information.

### Senior Democrats' meeting

Mary Dickinson, a candidate for the N.C. House, will discuss "Making a Better North Carolina" at the Thursday, March 6 meeting of the Forsyth County Senior Democrats. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at Golden Corral, 4965 University Pkwy. Members and guests wanting to enjoy the breakfast buffet will be able to enter the restaurant beginning at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call Senior Dems President Jim Shaw at 336-767-0860 or email [him](mailto:jim@jameswshaw.com) at [jameswshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jameswshaw@gmail.com).

### BBQ fundraiser

Sethos Temple No. 170 Shriners, 2511 Old Greensboro Rd., will hold its annual BBQ on Saturday, March 8 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Plates are \$8 and include BBQ Pork, baked beans, slaw, a roll and a dessert. Call 336-682-4136 to purchase tickets or for more information.

### Colon cancer walk/run

The 4th annual "Get Your Rear In Gear" 5K and walk, a fundraiser for colon cancer prevention and research, will be held Saturday, March 8 at BB&T Ballpark. Events start at 3 p.m. Go to [getyourrearingear.com/winston-salemrace](http://getyourrearingear.com/winston-salemrace) to register. Contact [elwooten@wakehealth.edu](mailto:elwooten@wakehealth.edu) for questions and/or more information.



Small Footprint's Steve Vest introduces Speas students to the Romanian team.



Photos by Layla Garms

## The World at Their Fingertips

Local tech company connects Speas students with its Romanian office

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

A select group of Speas Elementary School fifth graders got a crash course last week in technology, office culture and the global marketplace during a visit to the downtown offices of the Small Footprint, Inc.

The firm builds web and mobile software applications for learning, play and an assortment of other uses. The 10 Speas students invited to the firm's 22nd floor space in the Winston Tower building got a firsthand look at one of its newest innovations - Tereco, an application that Engagement Manager Steve Vest designed to assess teacher performance by using video and audio feeds to track and record a wide range of data. The software, which is taken from the Greek verb "to observe," is already in use at Summit School, one of the project's pilot sites. Vest also connected the students, via the video chat program Skype, with Small Footprints' office in Cluj, Romania.

"In the United States right now, we have about 12 staff members, and in Romania, we have many, many more," Vest told the youngsters. "I've asked them to join us today so you can see the differences between us and them. I think you'll see that there aren't many differences ... we're so much more alike than we are different."

Local Footprint employees use Skype daily to communicate with the 80-member Romanian team about the company's latest Web and mobile site design projects and smartphone and tablet applications.

The Romanian employees and the students chatted about the work of Small Footprint and compared notes on their respective hometowns, discussing favorite foods (pizza) and entertainment sources like the Cartoon Network, where some of the Romanians got their first English lessons.

"I think it's very fascinating," 11-year-old Taliya Lyons said of interacting with the Romanian team. "I wish I was there."

Ten-year-old Lino Hernandez-Chavez said he was surprised to learn how similar the Romanian culture is to his own.

"I thought it was really different from us, but it's actually kind of the same," said the aspiring artist.

Speas Principal Robert Ash said the field trip showed students how technology is making the world a smaller place.

"We thought this would be an opportunity for the students to see how much they're interacting on a global basis," he said, adding that he hopes to get Skype accounts up and running for every classroom in the school by the



Jasmine Cordray, Celexia Johnson and Aseelah O'Neal explore the Tereco app.



Lino Hernandez Chavez shows of his technological prowess as Theron Money looks on.



Speas students and staff sample authentic Romanian cuisine.



Robless



Farra

See Community on B3

See Speas on B2

**NEW LOCATION** SAME GOOD TIME

**APRIL 25**

FOLLOW US TO REYNOLDS PARK

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

reynolds park golf course

[www.wssu.edu/golfclassic](http://www.wssu.edu/golfclassic)