

Cherokee Company helps Tribes use Nintendo DSi to save Endangered Languages

Submitted by Don Thornton

Cherokee-owned Thornton Media, of Banning, Calif., has created software, free to tribal clients, that allows them for the first time to program their indigenous language onto Nintendo DSi handheld consoles.

The software, called "Language Pal" can program audio recordings in multiple dialects from multiple speakers. It allows the ability to program electronic flashcards, archived recordings, multiple-choice games, and tens of thousands of audio files with searchable database for use on the Nintendo DSi.

Thornton Media's Language Pal software is not an official Nintendo title, but "homebrew" software created by an Authorized Nintendo Developer. Thornton Media has begun the process of becoming a licensed Nintendo developer.

"Our approach to language tools has always been to make language learning fun" said Don Thornton. "Your kids will be playing with video games anyway, they might as well be learning their language."

Thornton noted that two keys to language revival are; to teach kids, but also to teach other members of the family to put the language back into the home. "Your community can have a million speakers but if the kids aren't learning the language then your language is in trouble. Kids today grew up in a world of handheld devices and video games. Often the technology competes with traditional culture. The technology is not

going to go away so we need to use it to help retain our various languages and cultures. Our technologies are adaptable to any tribal language."

Thornton Media has also been busy with iPod app development. "You can now download a free Cherokee app from the iTunes store, the first endangered language app ever in the iTunes Store!" says Don Thornton, president of Thornton Media, Cherokee

Lite is a small sample of words and phrases. Cherokee Basic is a much larger selection and will also be available for download at \$9.99. "Our indigenous languages are in trouble," says Thornton. "We are leading the way in creating these cutting-edge technologies to revive languages. And we are entirely self-funded."

The Cherokee Basic app consists of 467 audio files, including words, common phrases and 84 syllabary sounds. The app also has a "zoom-able" Cherokee syllabary chart. Thornton notes that Cherokee OK dialect is the only language that his company offers for sale. They don't sell the languages of other tribes simply because their clients make all distribution decisions. "Three of the five speakers are my mom, my grandma and my aunt in Tahlequah, OK." The other two are expert speakers from the Cherokee Nation and the Keetoowahs. "We can produce a

whole host of apps for any endangered language," said Thornton. "Our upcoming apps include Cherokee Baby Flashcards, Animated Storybooks in Cherokee, How to Write the Cherokee Syllabary (using stroke animation). We can create these apps for any endangered language. The stories we create in the storybooks can be for example "Three Little Pigs", "How the Coyote Got His Tail" or your tribal creation story.

"Whether or not tribal members can speak and understand their heritage language has long been considered by United States courts an important indicator of the "authenticity" of the tribe." <<http://www.falmouthinstitute.com>>

"As time passes the ability to keep or revive your language will become an important tool in retaining the



to-nation status of Indian tribes." Said Thornton. Our languages and cultures make us who we are". Thornton Media also created RezWorld, a revolutionary 3-D full-immersion video game that teaches indigenous languages. RezWorld is full indigenous language immersion in a virtual world, also the first technology of it's kind with 3rd party studies to prove its effectiveness. In 1995, Thornton Media became the first com-

Did You Miss Your Health Care Visit Today????

Every appointment that you have scheduled is a time where you and the person you are seeing are looking at your healthcare. You need to be checked to see if you have new problems or if you need a tune up on old problems. Your medications, diet, lab work, and activity need to be evaluated to see if all is going well.

You may say you are too busy or have something better to do. Your health is very important to keep you doing the many things that you do. If you are feeling ill and need to miss your appointment-it may be that this appointment could prevent an ER visit later.

Remember that someone is waiting to see you on this very important date!

A Public Service Announcement from the Cherokee Indian Hospital

GWY Horoscopes by Dr. Standley

Leo (July 23 to August 22) Due to the South Node and the Sun being in Leo the next three weeks could be a challenge for you if you don't humble yourself. Just remember to use all the manners you first learned in Kindergarten.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) You may remain in a state of solitude as you begin to figure out what you really want to do with your life. A challenging two year cycle for you finally ends on August 23, 2009. Yippee!

Libra (September 23 to October 22) The next three weeks need to be spent around friends, mentors and VIPs. Friends in high places need to be tapped as a resource for your future hopes and wishes. Use your resources.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) The next three

weeks may feel like a bottomless pit with regard to your career. At the same time, there is a bottomless pit of opportunity career-wise when you remain open and calm.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) Pack your bags because you are going on a trip even if it is for the weekend. Longer trips are in the works which could involve a plane or other distance means of transportation.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Sorting out paperwork, possessions and legal documents is still in the works for you. Transformation in every sense of the word turns your life in a whole new direction. It's all good!

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) The South Node and the Sun affecting your relationships could cause

a world of challenges making them feel like a bottomless pit. Remain quiet and patient over the next three weeks.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) Your daily chores are finally getting caught up and you probably won't know when to stop. For the next three weeks you will get more accomplished by 7:00 AM than most people do in a day.

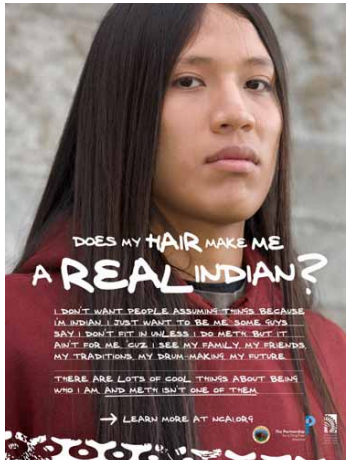
Aries (March 21 to April 19) Throwing caution to the wind and going out to play or dating more is in the works. Make certain you don't ignore obligations for a little fun and romance. Think maturely and responsibly.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Domestic issues could have you on the edge of your seat and a little uneasy. Your stubbornness will not work for you right now but your patience and practicality will. Be respectful to loved ones.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) You may hear from your neighbors and siblings more than in the recent past. You are the voice of authority now and people are stopping to listen to what you have to say. Pick your words smartly.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Watch your spending over the next three weeks because you may overspend on things you really can't afford. For three weeks don't buy anything that you need to make a payment on.

KEYWORDS FOR THOSE BORN July 29 - August 4: Be more -- Self-Loving, self-respecting, confident, high in spirit, content, pleased, pure, chaste



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