

'The future of the language is young people'

As a child, CarlaDean Caldera learned the Northern Paiute language of her mother, Esther Louise Watah Caldera. Esther Louise passed away while CarlaDean was young. Still, growing up the language and culture were always around her family.

Some years later, as a young adult, CarlaDean began studying and teaching at Warm Springs Culture and Heritage. "I didn't realize until then, till my mid-20s really, how much of the language I had kept," CarlaDean says.

Now these days, as a teacher, she considers how the Northern Paiute and other endangered Native languages can survive into the future: The solution, clearly, will involve young people taking an interest in the subject. And if anything, CarlaDean



The Fields Fellowship will help CarlaDean Caldera to develop apps making Native language more accessible to young people.

says, young people today use modern technology—Smart phones, tablets and other computers. She herself over the years has become

very good with computers, self-taught, developing interactive programs like a basketball shooting game, and even a hand-washing

game inspired by the covid. These use moving cartoon images and corresponding sound.

So CarlaDean puts the two things together—her computer applications or games for kids, and her desire to keep the Northern Paiute language alive. She found a website that helped her develop an application that teaches how to count one-two-three in Northern Paiute. Another one teaches the names of four-legged animals. A program narrator she uses, in her own voice, is a wolf by the Northern Paiute name, Assa.

Her idea is to approach the language using the technology familiar to young people today, "To see if I can make things come alive," CarlaDean says.

So far, she has used the computer app development service

available on the internet. Her goal is to be independent of any third-party service, developing on her own language application learning programs.

And if you think about it: This could apply beyond the Northern Paiute to any endangered or critically endangered Native language.

Last week, Oregon Humanities and the Oregon Community Foundation recognized her vision with a Fields Artist Fellowship. This is rare: CarlaDean is one of only four of the Fields Fellows awarded for 2021-2023.

The Fellowship will allow her to pursue the dream of teaching the Northern Paiute language, as a way of honoring the elders who have passed the language on to the present day.

— Dave McMechan

School district planning safe fall term

In a little over a month the 2021-22 school year starts for the Jefferson County School District 509-J. The first day for most students in the district will be the Tuesday after Labor Day, or September 7.

This week district officials are reviewing the updated Oregon Department of Education guidelines for returning to school. The guidelines are called 'Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year,' the Resiliency Plan for short.

The school district, working with families, will announce its plan soon, perhaps this week, guiding

school activities for the rest of the summer, into the return to in-school learning in September.

The updated guidelines came out just recently, and the Jefferson County district is developing its program based on the Resiliency plan. Most of the plan guidelines are advisory to the individual school districts, leaving many of the decisions at the local level.

The Resiliency Plan overall is designed to give health and safety recommendations that provide flexibility in order to:

Return to full-time, in-person instruction for all students.

Honor and recognize the uniqueness of communities across

the state.

Support schools in health and safety planning to meet community-specific needs and strengths.

The plan also notes: As schools plan for the fall 2021 in-person school year, it is important to remember: We will be living with the virus until there is widespread immunity.

Covid-19 continues to change with new variants. The understanding of virus mitigation grows over time, so guidance for responding to Covid-19 also changes.

As we have known for some time now: The best way to protect individuals are vaccination

for those who are eligible, physical distancing, face coverings, ventilation and air flow, hand washing, and staying home if ill or exposed to some with covid.

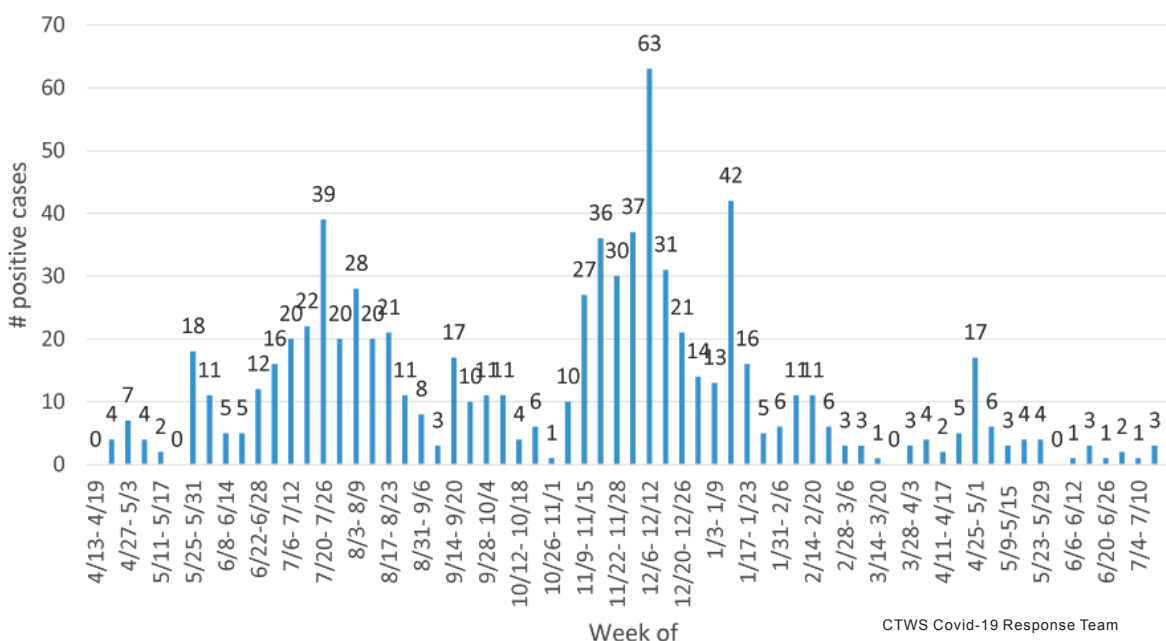
During this summer term, the school district required the wearing of face coverings while on a school bus.

This is a mandate as required by the Centers for Disease Control, applying to the use of masks on public transportation, including school buses.

You can always check for school district updates, and check the school calendar at the website:

jcsd.k12.or.us

Update: Reservation community covid data



The Covid-19 data chart for the reservation and tribal community, from April 2020 through mid last week, showing the incidence of positive testing. (See page 5 for details.)



C. Taylor photo

Dylan Heath, here with his goat Hayseuss, showed and sold livestock with his brother Hayden this year at the County Fair. Dylan this year graduated from Madras High School. He will be attending Lane County College, studying in the field of Physical Therapy.

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