



## Pandemic cases climb, county now vaccinating teens

*The Columbia Press*

Oregon became the No. 1 state in the nation for new COVID-19 cases during the past week, with an increase of 58 percent.

The more contagious B.1.1.7 variant is now the dominant strain in Oregon, which is fueling a fourth surge of coronavirus cases despite four out of every 10 Oregonians having received at least one dose of vaccine, according to health officials.

“You may be wondering why cases have been on the rise recently, especially as we see an increase in vaccination across the state,” officials at Oregon Health Authority wrote in a recent daily briefing. “There are two answers to this question – variants that are more transmissible and increased social gatherings without face coverings.”

Much of the increase in cases is in younger people. The fact that variant B.1.1.7. has become Oregon’s dominant strain is intensifying the spread at social gatherings.

OHA and the Centers for Disease Control are closely monitoring vari-

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## Assessing Warrenton’s economic future



Fishstix fish market (above, left) opened last year as did Arnie’s Cafe’s new location downtown (bottom, right). A brewpub is planned in the Fenton building (above, right), although structural problems have delayed opening. A utility crew (below) works to install improvements at Airport Industrial Park, where a fish processing plant will be built this year.



*The city won a grant to analyze its economic opportunities and goals*

**BY CINDY YINGST**

*The Columbia Press*

A good fish market? Check. Grocery stores? Check. Enough jobs for the skilled and unskilled? Maybe.

But what about a cozy sit-down brewpub or a trendy little doughnut shop?

There certainly are economic opportunities in the city of Warrenton. And the state is going to try to help the city find them.

“Economic growth is a bit like the we221ather – while we never know what will happen for sure, knowing the forecast helps us plan for the most likely situation,” says the Department of Land Conservation and Development on its website promoting economic opportunity analyses.

The DLCDC selected Warrenton for an

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