



DOWNTOWN ALBANY

March 2025

“Nutria: The Other Dark Meat” Returns to Albany Regional Museum

Back by popular demand, it's time to talk nutria—again!

Join Albany Regional Museum on Wednesday, March 12 for History Bites, where Mike Martin will explore the surprising history of nutria ranching in the U.S., with a special focus on Albany's role in the industry.



A packed house in 2019

Martin, the son and grandson of nutria ranchers, has spent years compiling stories, photos, and little-known facts from his family's former ranch.

Once prized for their fur and even promoted as a delicacy, nutria quickly became a major pest after the fur market collapsed in the late 1940s. Thousands were released into the wild, and their population exploded across western Oregon's waterways and wetlands.

History Bites is free, and light refreshments will be provided. Admission to exhibits is fee-based but always free for members.

Come enjoy this humorous, eye-opening presentation from 12 to 1 pm. at Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. SW. For details, call (541) 967-7122 or visit www.armuseum.com.



Downtown Seeks 2025 Hanging Basket Sponsors

The Albany Downtown Association Design Committee is gearing up for the 2025 Downtown Flower Basket Program and is seeking community support to keep the tradition alive.

This program thrives thanks to generous sponsors, whose contributions help fund the placement and care of Downtown Albany's signature flower baskets. The 2025 program budget is estimated at \$23,000, covering expenses such as planting, maintenance, and watering.

Sponsorships start at \$180, with three levels available, and donations of any amount are welcome. To sponsor, donate, or learn more, call ADA or visit www.albanydowntown.com/hangingbaskets.



Photo by Kristi Crawford

Downtown “Egg” Hunt starts Saturday, April 5

Join ADA for the Downtown Easter Hunt – a fun activity for the whole family with a little candy for all and a chance to win an Easter Basket!

Starting Saturday, April 5, head to Downtown Albany and search for “Easter Eggs” on window posters

throughout Downtown. Before you leave home, print and color your Downtown Easter Hunt entry form to record your findings. Entry forms are available online and are also available at the ADA office starting Tuesday, April 1.

Drop off your entry between Saturday, April 5 and Easter Sunday, April 20, at our office. If you stop in during office hours (Mon.-Fri 9-5), you'll receive a candy-filled Easter egg... a few lucky kiddos might find a Carousel ride token hidden in their egg!

You will earn one entry into the random drawing per business visited. Watch Facebook & email on Tuesday, April 22, at 12 pm for the prize announcement. AND – most of all – have fun exploring Downtown Albany!

For more information and the entry form visit, www.albanydowntown.com/events.



Meet the Neighbors: Downtown Legacy Businesses

Downtown Albany is what it is today thanks to many legacy businesses. The entrepreneurial spirit and dedication of these families is inspiring.

This is the first in a series of articles to share our legacy businesses with you.

No Dinx - 35 years

139 1st Ave. E - (541) 967-8494

Starting as a small screen printing business in 1989, No Dinx is a creative pillar in the community that has grown to be



No Dinx - Cory, Nina and Hazel

the second longest running screen printing business in the Albany/Corvallis area.

Since moving to their current location on 1st Ave in 1998, No Dinx's creative reach has come to include custom apparel, vehicle wraps, logo branding, printing, and signage. Not only does No Dinx employ 30 staff members across 8 differ-

ent departments, they also have an in-house design team with 5 experienced graphic designers.

In recent years, No Dinx has expanded outside of their brick and mortar. This year marks one year since opening a second location, No Dinx Wraps (NDW), as a space dedicated solely to providing professional vehicle wrap installations

No Dinx's co-owner Nina has also created and grown a PNW lifestyle brand called PNW by No Dinx as an extension to the shop's passion for design, screen printing, and the PNW. To top it off, owners Corey and Nina have continued to grow their third brand, No Dinx Volleyball, into a nationwide volleyball lifestyle brand that sells online as well as at the many tournaments the brand sponsors on the West Coast.

Beyond being a creatively driven business, No Dinx is also deeply driven by their community. In 2024, No Dinx was able to give back over \$40,000 to local schools, non-profits, and organizations.

"No Dinx started in our spare bedroom over 30 years ago with the concept of selling to athletic pro shops and volleyball clubs," says co-owner Nina, "now we employ over 30 people, have two shops, and run four brands. We attribute so much of our growth to our supportive community. We will continue to give back how we can through our community partnerships and We Deliver Happy Outreach Program."

Hasty Freez - 70 years

655 Lyon St. - (541) 926-2144

For more than 70 years, Hasty Freez has been an Albany landmark, offering old-school drive-thru food that has remained a community favorite. Since its founding in 1952, the restaurant has been a locally owned, family-run business spanning three generations.

Max Pope purchased Hasty Freez in 1969, expanding its loyal customer base with a focus on quality food and



Hasty Freez - Tony and Harrison Pope
Photo by Ashley Russell

consistent service. His son, Tony Pope, took over in 1990, modernizing equipment and the menu while preserving the restaurant's welcoming atmosphere.

In 2019, Harrison Pope became the third-generation owner, navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with the support of employees and loyal customers. While each generation has introduced changes, the core identity of Hasty Freez remains intact.

Longtime employees and returning customers have cemented its place in Albany's evolving food scene, proving that legacy businesses aren't just about history—they're about endurance and community.

Hasty Freez continues to serve classic drive-thru favorites, including burgers, hot dogs, corn dogs, fries, onion rings, and soft-serve ice cream. Local favorites include the Burger Box, Slushy Float, and Blackberry Sundae.

Open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, it remains a go-to spot for those craving comfort food with a side of nostalgia.

Next month we'll share two more notable Legacy businesses that have helped make Downtown Albany great!



ALBANY DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Lise Grato
Executive Director
director@albanydowntown.com

Lyndi Orosco
Office Manger
lyndi@albanydowntown.com

www.AlbanyDowntown.com
Facebook.com/AlbanyDowntownAssociation
Instagram: AlbanyDowntown

Albany Downtown Association
126 Ferry Street SW, Albany, OR 97321
(541) 928-2469


(541) 924-0576

Newsletter subscription: Email free. Mail \$6/yr.

Board of Directors

Matt Wadlington
President - Civil West Engineering

Kristi Crawford
Vice President - The Squeaky Cork

Julie Jackson
Secretary - Republic Services

Caitlin Prueitt
Treasurer - Calapooia Brewing

Andon Martin - Keller Williams Realty
Barbara Doolan - Member At Large
Beth Walker - La Belle Boutique
Brigitte de Valois - Brigitte's Place Fine Fabrics
Jena Metting - Merrime Bridal
Valeria Corona-Vigil - South Albany HS

Board Liaisons

Sophie Adams - CARA / Economic Dev.
Rebecca Bond - Albany Visitors Association
John Pascone - LEDG
Michael Thompson - Albany City Council
Janet Steele - Albany Area Chamber of Commerce



Volunteer Spotlight Kristi Crawford

Kristi has been a Downtown supporter for years, often donating her photographic talents to ADA, AVA, and the City of Albany, as well as capturing high school seniors' smiles during the 2020 Downtown Senior Night event.

In 2021, Kristi and her husband, Josh, opened The Squeaky Cork, a Scottish whisky pub on 1st Avenue. In 2023, she joined ADA's Board of Directors and now serves as Vice President. She co-chairs the Outreach Committee, focusing on fundraising and volunteer support.

Thank you, Kristi, for sharing your eye for beauty and precious time with ADA!



We spruced up the Two Rivers Parking Lot with new signs to welcome customers!
~ ~ ~

Each month, ParkWise awards a month of free parking to a leased space or permit holder.

Our March parking winner is...

The Artists

Gallery Calapooia

Downtown Events - March

Through Friday, Mar 7 - Albany Visitors Association Photo Contest

Annual AVA contest of photos featuring people, places and events in Albany and Linn County. Deadline Friday, Mar 7 at 5 pm. www.albanyvisitors.com.

Through Saturday, Mar 15 - ACT presents "Ride the Cyclone"

Albany Civic Theater presents "Ride the Cyclone" In this hilarious and outlandish story, the lives of six teenagers from a Canadian chamber choir are cut short in a freak accident aboard a roller coaster. Performances: Mar. 1, 2(m), 6, 7, 8, 9(m), 14, 15. Evens 7:30 pm, Matinee 2:30 pm. For tickets and info, visit www.albanycivic.org.

Through Saturday, Mar 29 - Gallery Calapooia Exhibit & 1st Friday Artist Reception

This month features the work of John Mikkelson. The monthly artist reception is on 1st Friday, March 7 from 6-8 pm. Exhibit continues through March 29. For more info, call (541) 971-5701 or visit www.gallerycalapooia.com.

Sunday, Mar 2 - Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration & Read Across America

Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday at the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum with Altrusa International! There will be games, character hide n' seek, and crafts and all kids will get to take home fun new books (Altrusa - supporting literacy one book at a time! 11 am-3 pm.

March 3 - April 30th - Art Exhibit at City Hall and 1st Friday Reception

The Albany Arts Commission presents the work of artists Bobbie Casteel and Peggy Sharrow in the gallery at City Hall. View the exhibit during regular City Hall hours, 8 am-5 pm. A reception for the artists will be held Friday, April 7 from 5-6:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Exhibit continues through April 30. Free and open to the public.

Friday, Mar 7 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany: Pot o' Gold

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tasting, music, a special event at the Carousel and other fun. For more info, our Facebook page or visit the ADA website www.albanydowntown.com/events. See story page 4.

Friday, Mar 7 - 1st Friday at ARM: The Bureau of Mines: Uncovering 50 Years of Secrets

Join Albany Regional Museum when Tai Stith, author of Science, Submarines & Secrets: The Incredible Early Years of the Albany Research Center, presents on the least to the most effective avenues of researching classified and declassified topics. Bring questions for after the presentation! Admission to our exhibits during First Friday hours is free! 5 -7 pm. www.armuseum.com.

Saturday, Mar. 8 - Monteith House Living History Activities

Step into 1850 with them on the second Saturday of each month at the Historic Monteith House. Exciting activities like woodworking, pioneer doll making and so many other family-friendly activities! Each time will be something new, and you'll learn a little more about this important piece of Albany's history. 12-2 pm. www.monteithhouse.org

Wednesday, Mar 12 - History Bites - Nutria: The Other Dark Meat

Join us at the Albany Regional Museum for Mike Martin's presentation Nutria: The Other Dark Meat. Back by popular demand! Learn about the history of nutria ranching in the United States and right here in Albany! Oregon 12-1 pm. Light refreshments provided. www.armuseum.com. See story page 1

Sunday, Mar. 16 - Mixology Madness

Albany Downtown Association's fundraiser is back! Sample cocktails created by Downtown's favorite bartenders and vote for your favorite drink at the best cocktail party in town. Advance sale only. Tickets on sale now. See story page 4.

Saturday, Mar. 22 - Little Royalty Tea Party at the Carousel

The Albany Carousel cordially invites all princesses, princes, kings and queens to a Little Royalty Tea Party filled with magic and fun! Sip on delicious tea or juice, enjoy tasty finger foods and get creative with exciting crafts. Dress in your royal best and get ready for a splendidly magical time! 11 am-1 pm. Tickets are \$35 per person. For more information, visit www.albanycarousel.com or call (541) 497-2934.

Friday, April 4 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany: Spring Fling

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! For more info, visit the ADA website www.albanydowntown.com/events.

Saturday, Apr 5 - Mother's Day Flower Signs

The popular Mother's Day Flower signs will go on sale at noon.

Sat-Sun, Apr 5-20 - Downtown Easter "Egg" Hunt

Head to Downtown Albany and search for colorful paper Easter "Eggs" on windows throughout Downtown. See story page 1.

For info on these and other events, visit AlbanyDowntown.com

Step Into the Glamour of Old Hollywood at Mixology Madness

Get ready for an evening of glitz, cocktails, and friendly competition at Albany Downtown Association's annual fundraiser, Mixology Madness! This year's event brings an Old Hollywood flair, rolling out the red carpet for a night of style, spirits, and celebration you won't want to miss.

Join us Sunday, March 16, from 4-7 p.m. at Flinn Block Hall in the heart of Downtown Albany. Sample a spectacular lineup of handcrafted cocktails from ten talented Downtown mixologists as they compete for the People's Choice and Judges awards. Cast your vote for your favorite, then enjoy the big reveal as the bartenders step forward and winners are announced!



Guests will also indulge in an elegant appetizer spread from Taste of Downtown Albany, capture the moment in a Hollywood-style photo booth, and bid on fantastic packages in the silent auction.

The Sparkle Shot is sponsored by Sid Stevens Jewelers. For just \$25 you will receive a fun beverage and one of 74 CZs or maybe the 1/2 ct. diamond!



Thanks to our incredible sponsors, Presenting Sponsor Albany Carpet One, Silver Sponsor Linn Co. Expo, Sparkle Shot Sponsor Sid Stevens Jewelers, and Wristband Sponsor Home with Andon, this promises to be an unforgettable evening.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include



a wristband, tasting tray, 10 tasting tickets, and a voting pamphlet. Additional tastes, full-size versions of the competition cocktails, wine, beer, and cider will be available for purchase. Tickets are on sale online and at the ADA office.

Not sure what to wear? Channel your inner movie star! Our Old Hollywood theme sets the stage for a fun, classy night—so dress to impress.

This event is 21+ only, and tickets are limited. Secure yours before they sell out!

For tickets, a sneak peek at silent auction items, and more info, call (541) 928-2469, or visit www.mixologymadness.com

1st Friday Downtown "Pot o' Gold" Set For Lucky March 7

Join us for First Friday on March 7 and enjoy a night of shopping, dining, and entertainment with a festive "Pot o' Gold" theme!

Sweet Red Bistro & Sweeteasy will be mixing up their Shamrock Shake, a festive blend of vodka, crème de menthe, crème de cocoa, cream, and a scoop of vanilla ice cream. (4-10 pm)

Beloved Cheesecakes is celebrating the season with their refreshing Mint Chocolate Chip cheesecake—stop in for a slice! (10 am-7 pm)

Sugar J's Ice Cream Workshop is showcasing its pistachio ice cream, a nutty delight perfect for welcoming spring. (3-9 pm)



The Natty Dresser LLC will host live music by the Loose Flagstone Irish band, offering refreshments and their signature Irish Buck cocktail. Browse in-store specials and receive a free gift from the pot-o-gold with a \$20 purchase. (5-7 pm)

The Historic Carousel is the perfect place for family fun with their "Pot o' Gold" night! Enjoy unlimited rides for just \$5 per person and a free craft with Party Perfection. The Carousel Café is offering a buy-one-get-one deal on chips, and the gift shop has 20% off all gold items. (5:30-8 pm)

Gallery Calapooia will host its monthly artist reception and show, featuring the work of John Mikkelson. Stop by to admire incredible local art and meet the artist. (6-8 pm)

Weathered Together is celebrating St. Patrick's Day with hand-quilted coasters, festive gnomes, and a fun treasure hunt for gold jewelry hidden throughout the store. (4-6 pm)

Wine Crush is bringing back a fan favorite—Brussels sprouts roasted in their pizza ovens with your choice of toppings. Pair it with a great wine for a cozy evening. (4-8 pm)



La Belle Boutique is serving up Irish coffee and giving guests a chance to win a door prize—stop in for a warm drink and some luck of the Irish. (5-6 pm)

Camille's Bistro is featuring a green-themed starter with fried Brussels sprouts sautéed in white wine and pancetta, topped with Parmesan and house aioli. Finish your meal with a rich Irish coffee. (7 am-9 pm)

Sidekicks Gourmet Desserts & Espresso has a Pot O' Gold Breve rich espresso swirled with chocolate ganache and hazelnut, topped with salted caramel soft top, cocoa powder and golden sprinkles!

Next month's 1st Friday will be "Spring Fing." For more information, visit www.albanydowntown.com/events.