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On Sept. 12, LFT Fiber officially celebrated its new downtown location. Louisiana's only community-owned, 100% fiber-optic provider, LFT Fiber will be able to reach and connect with more in the community at its new home.

AARON GONSOLIN / THE DAILY ADVERTISER

Lafayette celebrates vibrant 2025

New restaurants, businesses fuel city's growth

Aaron Gonsoulin
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

From beloved local flavors to community services and specialty shops, Lafayette's business landscape saw a vibrant surge of new openings in 2025, signaling continued economic growth and entrepreneurial spirit in Acadiana.

Culinary delights and eateries take center stage

One of the year's most exciting arrivals is Sarrica's Little Italy, the longtime favorite Italian food truck turned full-service restaurant. After outgrowing its food truck and pop-up spots, the family-run Sicilian eatery officially opened its doors on Ambassador Caffery Parkway in January, bringing authentic Italian

cuisine — with ingredients imported from Sicily — to Lafayette diners.

Other notable food and beverage additions in 2025 include:

- Park Bistro, serving desserts and New American classics, is quickly becoming a local favorite.
- Toasted Baguette, a new sandwich shop, delights lunch crowds in

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New concepts could enrich culinary scene

Aaron Gonsoulin
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lafayette is known nationwide for its Cajun and Creole cooking, but there's always room to expand the menu.

Even as Acadiana's restaurant scene grows, several culinary styles remain

largely absent — concepts that could add new depth to the city's established food culture.

True Korean BBQ Experience

Lafayette has more Asian-inspired eateries than ever, but the city still lacks a full-scale Korean BBQ restaurant with

tabletop grills, marinated meats and an interactive dining setup.

Authentic East African Cuisine

Ethiopian and East African cuisine — known for injera, slow-simmered

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Inside LA's \$10B AI data center

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana has finalized details on another \$10 billion data center, this one from Hut 8 in West Feliciana Parish.,

Hut 8, which develops and operates an integrated portfolio of power, digital infrastructure and compute assets, said more than 1,000 construction workers will be on site of its River Bend artificial intelligence (AI) data center campus at its peak.

Anthropic, an artificial intelligence company whose flagship chatbot is Claude, has signed a long-term deal to use the facility, Hut 8 and the state announced Dec. 17.

"It's a transformational and generational project for our parish and region," West Feliciana Parish President Kenny Havard said in an interview

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Driving laws to know in Louisiana

Ian Robinson
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

From cellphone use to lane passage, expanded driving laws in Louisiana are changing what motorists can and cannot do behind the wheel.

Hands-Free Phone Law

Drivers can no longer hold or use a phone or handheld device while driving including texting or browsing apps.

Left lane driving

Drivers can get pulled over driving under the posted speed limit in the left lane, unless they're actively passing. Fines start at \$150 and can rise with repeat offenses.

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