



JULY/AUGUST 2022

CONNECTION



Blockbuster venue

Lafayette Cinema shines

CATHY'S SHARES
THE LOVE

CAMPING 'N
GLAMPING



By SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD, CEO
NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association

Any room can be a classroom

Broadband opens a world of new educational opportunities

Soon, students will end summer break and return to classrooms and, in communities fortunate enough to be served by a member of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, they will have advantages once thought impossible in rural areas.

While fast, reliable broadband service creates opportunity for everyone, our students benefit significantly. Resources that were simply unavailable before are now only a few clicks away.

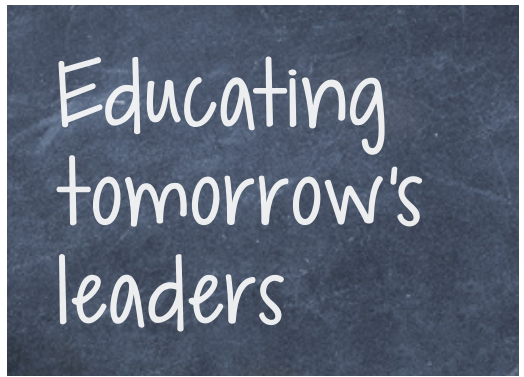
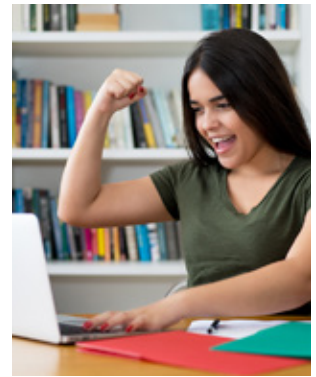
Once, learning about great art meant gazing at photos in a book. Now, students can take virtual tours through the greatest museums on Earth and, hopefully, find inspiration in the masters of the art world. Resources like Project Gutenberg make classic books a click and download away.

Digital resources also go far beyond virtual libraries and museums. Thanks to distance learning — real-time sessions connected through video — students in the most remote communities can tap into advanced or specialized classes otherwise unavailable in their area.

One key focus, and an acronym, you may have heard a lot about is STEM — science, technology, engineering and math. The skills learned in classes such as these are foundational. They can open the door to a range of jobs, higher education opportunities and more.

At the NTCA, we hear stories of these successes daily, because our members, including your communications provider, make a tangible difference in the lives of those they serve. The more tools we provide our students — the people who will become our future leaders and innovators — the richer our communities will become.

Every day, our NTCA members work to make that future a reality. 



Welcoming clouds

Digital storage brightens the day



Whether sharing work files, snapping photos with your phone or dozens of other actions, your digital data most likely doesn't remain solely on your device. Instead, those files were probably shared through a cloud-based service. Similarly, most phones default to backing up your photos to the cloud.

In fact, the cloud is one critical presence in our digital lives, an experience often so seamless you might not even realize it's there.

But, exactly what is the cloud, and how does it work? Think of it as a collection of computers designed not only to store critical data, but also to back it up securely and deliver it on demand to whatever device you choose. That's how you're able to work on the same file at home as you would at school, at an office or just on the go with a mobile device.

HOW IT WORKS

When you subscribe to a cloud provider such as Apple, Dropbox, Google, Microsoft or many others, you can upload files to a data server managed by that company. In some cases, the files are both on your device and in the cloud. Or, they may strictly be in the cloud, saving room on your device. These files can be photos, videos, documents with text, emails or more. As long as your device is connected to the internet and you are logged into the service, you can access this digital library. The cloud providers work hard to make it all as seamless as possible.

CLOUD ADVANTAGES

Cloud storage saves space on your devices. It's also a good way to preserve files as a backup. Rather than keep one copy of

your data, cloud services keep multiple copies on many machines to create as reliable a system as possible.

Many businesses use cloud storage to offload the responsibility of managing physical servers or running complex software. Another benefit of using the cloud is that you can increase or decrease storage based on how much you need, matching the price of the service to your requirements.

EXAMPLES

Apple's iCloud, Microsoft's OneDrive and Google Drive are popular cloud storage options for individuals. Cloud storage is also used by social media and entertainment companies to provide services to the public. For example, Facebook manages its own private cloud services and data centers. Instagram and Pinterest are also cloud-based. If you've ever used Netflix to watch movies, then you were also using a cloud computing service.

Popular personal use of cloud storage includes family photos and important financial documents such as tax returns. Businesses might use cloud storage for employee files, financial data such as payroll and to store customer data.

BACK UP THE CRITICAL FILES

Cloud storage provides a range of benefits, but with vital information — anything from wills to family photos, digital art and beyond — consider the cloud as just one part good digital housekeeping. Consider creating three versions of these files: one in the cloud, a second on a computer hard drive and a third on an external drive. Rely on the cloud for convenience, but keep backup for, well, a rainy day. ☔

Heating up

Summer highlights our great life



**JOHNNY
MCCLANAHAN**
President/CEO

Long summer days are opportunities for adventure, community and fun.

Many of us will find the time for family vacations to new places or to trusty favorite destinations. Fireworks, parades and more will bring neighbors together to celebrate who we are as a nation and as a community. Also, summer sports, gardening and similar activities will leave many people sore, possibly a little sunburned and the good kind of tired.

While I appreciate our area every day, the summer months are special. With so much activity, it's the perfect chance to catch up with old friends and see some new faces, people who have also decided to call our region home.

That's the case not only for me personally, but also for our company. This is a time when we can see better than ever the fruits of our labor, because our mission is to help make life here the best it possibly can be. Can we do that alone? Certainly not. Schools, our elected leaders, business owners, neighbors who help neighbors — the list is rich and longer than we could print here — come together to make a difference.

As a communications company, however, we do play a critical role, a connective thread that empowers groups, organizations and individuals. Not only does our fast internet service link local residents, businesses, schools and more to the world, but it also provides access to a wealth of local information and resources.

Everything from posts about lost pets and neighborhood meetings to job openings and important government notices is just few clicks away. Just because it's online doesn't mean it has to be about something hundreds, or thousands, of miles away. Even when the connections are long distance, the results are often tangible here.

For example, remote work is increasingly offered as a viable option by companies of all sizes. As a result, our workforce can now compete for jobs that once meant relocating to a big city. The skills, not the location, are now most important.

Similarly, classrooms down the road from where you live can access resources from not just around the nation but also from around the world. A virtual tour of museums in New York, London or France is just a few clicks away. There's a wealth of digital books, many downloadable for free. Everything from high school homework to college admissions is easier.

While our local health care providers are appreciated for all they do, telehealth offers more opportunities to access services otherwise unavailable locally. Instead of a long drive to visit a specialist, a video-based appointment can be the answer.

This is all great news, and I can discuss the benefits of fast internet at length — it's a long, and growing list. The truth is that our communications services provide a daily benefit to many, and the sum of those individual gains is a more vibrant community.

During these warm summer days, that's all reflected in the joy of people coming together — we've made this a wonderful place to call home.

Enjoy your summer. 📧

The North Central Connection is a bimonthly newsletter published by NCTC, © 2022. It is distributed without charge to all member/owners of the cooperative.



North Central is a member-owned corporation dedicated to delivering advanced telecommunications technology to the people of Northern Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, including Macon County, Tenn., Allen County and Warren County, Ky. NCTC also serves portions of Sumner, Trousdale, Smith and Clay counties in Tennessee.

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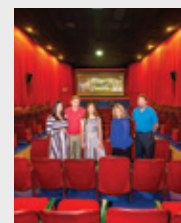
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Produced for North Central by:



On the Cover:



The Lafayette Cinema family includes, from left, Shawna Warner, Justin Warner, Samantha Warner, Priscilla Warner and Eddie Warner.
See story Page 12.

Congratulations!

NCTC awarded \$1,000 scholarships to students from area high schools.



BRADY ALDERSON
Allen County-
Scottsville High
School
(Not pictured)



BRIAN BILBRO
Macon County High School



**MARY ELLEN
COPAS**
Red Boiling
Springs High
School



EMILY FIELDS
Smith County High School



**CIERRA
FAYTHE HICKS**
Westmoreland
High School



**ELYSSA
CHAPMAN**
Trousdale County
High School

NOTICE TO NORTH CENTRAL TELEPHONE CUSTOMERS

If you receive your home phone service through our state-of-the-art fiber optic network, it requires electric power to operate. To avoid a disruption of home voice service during a power outage — and to maintain the ability to connect to 911 emergency services — we at NCTC offer you a battery backup for an additional fee. A standard corded phone is required. Our battery backups are expected to last eight hours on standby power. That means the backup battery should give you approximately six hours of talk time. If you feel this is not enough time, you may extend your standby power by purchasing a 24-hour battery or additional eight-hour batteries. Our battery backup does not provide power to any services other than voice. Home security systems, medical monitoring devices, routers and other equipment will not run on a phone backup battery. Unless you are otherwise notified in advance or in cases of abuse to our equipment, NCTC will maintain the power unit for three years from the date of installation.



It's easy to add your number to the **Do Not Call Registry**.

Register online at **donotcall.gov**
or call **888-382-1222**.
For TTY, call 866-290-4236.
You must call from the telephone number you wish to register.

NCTC would like to wish you a happy and safe

4TH OF July

Our offices will close on Monday, July 4, in observance of the holiday.

Glamping IN THE SOUTH: *a luxurious getaway*

Story by ANNE BRALY

The concept means all the comforts of home in a rustic setting

Glamping has become a huge trend for those who want the thrill of getting back to nature without the hassle of backpacking and sleeping on the cold, hard ground.

That experience is what you'll find at Wildwood Resort and Marina on Cordell Hull Lake in Middle Tennessee's Upper Cumberland region. A newly renovated resort, it offers glampers the best of both worlds — a place to enjoy nature but in resort-style accommodations with a full range of activities. It's summer camp all grown up, with horseback riding, hiking, canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking, but a bed with luxury linens awaits at the end of the day.

Mornings begin peacefully at Wildwood in an area called The Woods. Glamping is the focus there in the beautifully appointed, fully restored retro Airstream trailers amid tall pines and

hardwoods with a view of Cordell Hull Lake. The trailers offer beds with nice linens, a Keurig to brew your coffee in the morning and a long list of things to do throughout the day. At night, light a fire — each Airstream has a fire pit — and enjoy the peace and quiet of your surroundings. Don't forget the marshmallows.

The Airstreams, six in all, are named for the queens of country music. There's Dolly from 1960; June, circa 1971; Emmylou from 1983; Patsy and Reba, both 2012 models; and Loretta, circa 1985. They have outdoor grills, microwaves and refrigerators, so you can prepare your own food if you desire. If not, Wildwood offers two dining venues. Grab a snack, breakfast or a quick lunch at Holston Cafe, open seven days a week. Timberloft Lakeside Restaurant, open on weekends, offers cozy seating inside and outdoor dining on a deck overlooking the water.

John and Natasha Deane and Kevin and Donna Jones bought the old marina in Granville, Tennessee, in 2018 and reopened it as Wildwood Resort and Marina. After some major renovations



©Marina/Adobe Stock



and additions, the resort now boasts a houseboat with two bedrooms, a new lakeside lodge with 14 guest rooms, lakeside cabins, a state-of-the-art conference center and the six vintage Airstreams.

You can tailor your stay at Wildwood any way you want. Hop on a paddleboard or in a kayak or canoe and make your way across Cordell Hull Lake to explore its nearby tributaries — Indian Creek and Martin’s Creek. Or, let someone else do the driving by taking a breakfast, brunch or dinner cruise at sunset aboard a pontoon boat. Just make arrangements ahead of time with the staff. You can also simply wet a line and fish from the boardwalk along the jetty — bring your own bait and tackle.

Off-site, there’s more to keep you busy. The area is known for its wineries and waterfalls, so grab a map and get moving. You can also arrange a guided tour. Trails abound through the area, so be sure to bring your hiking boots. Or hop on a horse and take a ride along a designated trail that skirts the lake. One-hour and two-hour rides are available. Tired muscles after a day of fun? Put your name down for a massage.

The town of Granville, Tennessee, has a population of 300 that swells to 10,000 during the Heritage Day Festival every Memorial Day weekend. It’s one of seven festivals that take place in the small downtown. Granville is also home to T. B. Sutton General Store, established in 1880. Every Saturday night, the store hosts a bluegrass dinner with live music on the small corner stage. The music goes out to radios across the world in a broadcast.

“Granville has a ton of history, and the town has embraced it,” John says, adding that visitors can take tours that showcase the history. Again, check with the resort for reservations for all activities.

Music is a part of life at Wildwood, too. There’s live music on Fridays and Saturdays with bands playing covers May through September. Prominent Nashville musicians come in for singer-songwriter night the second Saturday of these months. Every Thursday night is Pickin’ on the Porch, open to all who want to pick up an instrument and join in or just sit back and listen.

“Wildwood is an irresistible destination for discovering the Tennessee wilderness,” John says. And glamping is a fun way to do it.

Reservations: www.wildwoodresorttn.com.



Far left: Lodging at Wildwood Resort and Marina in Tennessee includes restored Airstream trailers.

Left: Cummins Falls State Park creates a scenic destination for a daytrip.



Kayaking on Cordell Hull Lake is another of the pastimes at the resort.

Glamping around the South

River Ranch, Florida — Enjoy glamping at an authentic dude ranch in a rare, untouched piece of Florida wilderness. Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo lies on 1,700 acres an hour south of Orlando. It can accommodate a couple’s getaway, family bonding or a group of friends. Glamping includes a fully furnished, air-conditioned tent with access to a private bath, campfire with a s’mores kit, warm cinnamon rolls and personalized concierge service. Weekend guests can also return to the days of “Old Florida” by attending a rodeo in the 1,200-seat arena, followed by a variety of Florida cowboy-themed activities.

Reservations: westgateresorts.com/hotels/florida/river-ranch

Gulf Shores, Alabama — Gulf State Park is the perfect destination for exploring the white sand beaches of Gulf Shores. The campground is set up with three glamping-style safari tents that sleep up to four people. While glamping here is more rustic than in some other places, you’ll still sleep in comfort off the ground on cots. A communal wash station is nearby, and there are full bathroom facilities a little farther away. It’s all about combining backcountry camping with convenience and privacy — and a gorgeous beach.

Reservations: alapark.com

Walhalla, South Carolina — You’ll need to make reservations early to sleep in a treehouse on a South Carolina farm that’s a stone’s throw from the Chattahoochee National Forest. Walls of windows will make you feel like a bird high in the trees with views all around. The property boasts gardens, forests of hardwood trees and trails galore. The treehouse has luxury bedding, a fireplace and dining room, a barbecue grill and a hammock for relaxing. Bring your own food or, for an extra fee, have dinner delivered to your door.

Reservations: boltfarmtreehouse.com

Speedy scanning

Conveniently copy any document



With all-in-one printers that come equipped with scanning capability and the smartphone in your pocket getting better and better at capturing images and documents, fewer people need a dedicated scanner. Of course, there are tradeoffs with each option, and as with any device, it's important to choose what's right for you.

Before you spend money on a scanner you don't need or find out too late that an app on your phone isn't enough, consider the following before deciding.

SMARTPHONE APPS

There are more than a dozen apps available for your scanning needs, and the ever-improving camera on most smartphones means that results can rival a physical scanner. However, if you need anything beyond the occasional copy of a document or photo, you should consider looking beyond an app.

If your scanning is of the once-in-a-while variety, then you can't go wrong with a free app like Adobe Scan. The same folks behind Photoshop made it, and the app offers a simple interface and

produces high-quality scans of documents, images, business cards and forms. It can export documents as PDFs and save them to the Adobe Document Cloud, or it can save them as a JPEG image file on your phone. It also offers good optical character recognition, or OCR, and allows you to copy and edit text taken from an image. It's available for iOS and Android devices.

PHYSICAL SCANNER

If you have to scan multiple pages and images or smaller text, even a high-quality app such as Adobe Scan can feel underpowered — and try holding a smartphone steady for more than a few minutes.

The best way to choose what kind of physical scanner you should buy is to consider your needs.

Think of what kind of documents you'll be scanning and how many. Flatbed scanners are great for photos and unbound documents — basically anything that can lay flat on the scanner glass and should be handled with care. Some flatbed scanners even have a lid that allows for easier scanning of bound books or magazines.

If you regularly scan multiple documents, you should opt for a scanner with a sheet feeder. Much like having to hold the phone steady, having to manually place page after page in a flatbed scanner can be difficult. For large jobs, you will want a scanner equipped with an automatic document feeder that can handle stacks of pages at a time.

One other consideration is whether you'll be scanning double-sided documents. In that case, look for a device that offers duplex scanning. The fastest options scan a document on both sides at the same time, but they are also usually a more expensive choice.

As for resolution, you don't need to worry too much. For most documents and photos, 300 dpi — or dots per inch — is enough. You may want to scan images at 600 dpi to capture smaller details but anything beyond that — unless it's for a very specific use — is overkill. Modern scanners have no trouble with any of these levels of resolution. 📄

DEVICE OF THE MONTH

The Fujitsu ScanSnap iX1600

The Fujitsu ScanSnap iX1600 is for those who are looking for a home office scanner with plenty of bells and whistles. The duplex scanner can process up to 40 double-sided sheets per minute and features automatic image rotation and color cleanup. While it is Mac and PC compatible, it can also scan directly to any mobile device, a printer or a variety of cloud platforms, including Dropbox and Google Drive. MSRP \$495, but available for a lower price at several retailers.



Family table

Cathy's Country Cupboard remains a welcome fixture in Westmoreland

Story by JEN CALHOUN

Jennifer Tuttle remembers her mother, Cathy Hammock, as someone who showed her love with what she put on the table. “She loved to cook, and she loved to feed people,” says Jennifer, who has been running Cathy’s Country Cupboard, the restaurant her mother founded in 1996, for years now. “She loved watching people enjoy the food she cooked.”

Although Cathy died in March, her spirit lives on in the restaurant she built as a single mom. Jennifer now co-owns the restaurant with her sister, Stacy Freeman, and she still works alongside their aunt and Cathy’s sister, Freda Bennett. Bryson, Jennifer’s 17-year-old son, cooks after school, and her dental hygienist daughter, McKenzie Troutt, helps out when she can. Even Jennifer’s 10-year-old son, Sawyer, pitches in here and there.

“It’s always been a family thing,” Jennifer says. “My mom’s cousin, Tom Hire, helped her start the restaurant.

After he sold his share to me, he’d still come and help bus tables just to be around everybody.”

LASTING LEGACY

Today, the restaurant maintains the homey feel Cathy created when she started it. Customers still know it for its country-style dishes — breaded pork chops, chicken and dumplings, creamy mashed potatoes and pinto beans. And the famous homemade pies continue to be a big hit.

Cathy’s Country Cupboard is also one of the few sit-down restaurants in town, which fills Jennifer with a sense of pride and responsibility. “Honestly, some days it’s really hard,” she says. “But I won’t give up because I never want to let down my mom or anybody in this town. Our regular customers have become family to us, and some of our employees have been here for more than 20 years. You just don’t see that anymore.” 📞

Come on in!

Cathy’s Country Cupboard has been cranking out the hits since 1996. The restaurant keeps to a meat-and-three menu with popular main courses like chicken strips in gravy, Salisbury steak and shredded pork roast. Side items include creamed potatoes, pinto beans, fried apples and seasoned whole potatoes. Homemade pies and desserts are popular, too. They include everything from hot fudge cake with ice cream to chocolate pie, coconut pie, blackberry cobbler and much more. To see the latest menu items and updates about the restaurant, visit and like its Facebook page. Cathy’s is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



Owners Stacy Freeman and Jennifer Tuttle.



Everybody wants inside Cathy's Country Cupboard, the Westmoreland meat-and-three restaurant that opened in 1996.



Tribute to the original owner, Cathy Sue Hammock. Her two daughters, Jennifer Tuttle and Stacy Freeman, now own and operate the restaurant.

Photography contributed by Tony Young

Back to School

Story by LISA SAVAGE



★ Make sure you have adequate internet speeds for students studying at home

Many schools now offer more options for virtual days and online learning, whether it's for severe weather outbreaks, sick days or a family that has discovered that online learning works best for their child.

As a result, a reliable home internet service is more important than ever, whether it's for students who need to access online assignments, parents working remotely or for streaming movies and shows.

The Federal Communications Commission offers some tips to optimize your home network performance:

CHECK YOUR INTERNET PLAN

Check with your internet provider to find out the speed in your plan. Make sure it's enough to handle all the devices that might be connected at the same time, as well as any additional devices that could be added, such as televisions for streaming, laptops and more. FCC consumer guides provide information about household broadband use and broadband speeds.

TEST YOUR SPEED

In many cases, your internet provider has a speed test on the company website, or you can download broadband speed test apps or visit speed test websites, to check your current broadband download and upload speeds. Many providers, especially rural telecommunications cooperatives, strive

to keep download and upload speeds close to the same, which is important when it comes to online meeting platforms, which require higher upload speeds. Some national providers offer deals to get new customers, advertising high speeds. In reality, they may be referring only to download speed.

TROUBLESHOOTING

In most homes, internet service comes to the house and then operates through a wireless signal called Wi-Fi, which distributes the broadband throughout the home on a device called a router. Using multiple wireless devices on the same Wi-Fi network can impact performance.

Sometimes, rebooting the router — turning it off and then turning it back on — can resolve the problem.

If your internet provider doesn't supply the router, make sure it isn't outdated. Check the model number on the router to see if it's capable of providing the speed you're paying for. If your internet speed seems slower than it should be, contact your provider for troubleshooting tips, or ask if there are any outages or disruptions that could impact speed.

Whether they're in the classroom or learning virtually, almost all students need access to the internet to reach their potential. Making sure your broadband network provides the speeds they need is a big step in the right direction. 📺

Connected classrooms

Teachers maximize communication with students and parents

Story by LISA SAVAGE



How many times has this happened, parents?

You're running late as you get ready to leave home and drop the kids off at school as you rush to work.

As you go through your mental checklist, you think you're doing OK, and then your child says, "I forgot to study for my spelling test." The teacher sent the list of spelling words home on a note that's shoved deep into your child's backpack.

Now, the educational world is changing, using apps for classroom reminders, school activities and even payment in advance for athletic and other school events.

While many teachers still send notes and schedules home on paper, they also communicate the same information through apps.

Apps like Remind allow teachers and coaches to send out information about class assignments or practice schedules. Messages can be sent to a group or to individuals. About 80% of schools in the United States use Remind to connect students, teachers and families. It's designed for grades K-12 to communicate with everyone at once, and it has 20 million monthly active users across the United States.

Parents like the app because they receive early closing notifications instantaneously. All parents don't always see reminders that go out on social media.

The app reminds parents of homework assignments, dress up days and more.

It can lead to more participation in the classroom when parents get reminders because not all students show notes to their parents, and not all parents go through their children's backpacks to find them.

ClassDojo has typically been used for younger students and has group messaging and individual options, so the group may not necessarily see responses.

The app has messaging for group story posts, as well as individual student portfolios where teachers can assign work and students can turn in assignments. It also translates into over 35 languages.

Talking Points also features translation and options to communicate with families in their home languages to build strong partnerships during the school year.

Many school systems utilize platforms like Google Classroom, which also has access to such options as Google Voice for communication with students and their parents. For extracurricular activities like athletic events or stage performances, some school systems utilize GoFan, an app that offers online ticket purchases.

More and more schools are opting for the app purchase to avoid cash transactions. Some schools no longer even accept cash payments at the gate for events.

Since 2001, GoFan and its parent company, Huddle Tickets, have worked with over 10,000 schools selling over 20 million tickets — more digital high school tickets than any other company.

Other companies offer similar purchase availabilities through an app.

Parents, as another school year is about to begin, make sure you have the tools necessary to make meaningful connections with your child's teachers and school system.



From classroom reminders to athletic tickets, apps are increasingly essential.



From left: Shawna Warner, Justin Warner, Eddie Warner, Samantha Warner and Priscilla Warner run Lafayette Cinema.

ON WITH THE SHOW!

Lafayette Cinema creates movie magic

Story by JEN CALHOUN

As a kid, Eddie Warner loved the moment when the lights in the movie theater dimmed and the audience hushed in anticipation of the next big blockbuster. “I remember all the movies I went to see in the theater,” Eddie says. “I was a kid when I saw ‘Jaws’ and ‘Star Wars,’ and I can still remember that experience.”

Eddie’s nostalgia for movie theaters led the former welder to buy Lafayette Cinema, the city’s only movie theater, back in 2005. Since then, he and his family have made it their goal to create a modern — but affordable — movie experience for everyone.

MAKING MEMORIES AT THE MOVIES

The all-digital, one-screen theater includes surround sound and a 21st century experience, but ticket prices at Lafayette Cinema remain stuck in the 1990s. For \$5, anyone over the age of 10 can get a seat, while those for viewers ages 4 to 9 cost \$3. Kids under 4 years of age watch for free. On Mondays and during Sunday matinees, tickets go for \$3.

It’s a big difference from other first-run movie theaters across the country that charge nearly twice as much for a flick. “We want it to be affordable so everyone can come see a movie,” Eddie says. “We try hard not to price people out. We try to

be fair about all of it. The fact that we’re here in Lafayette also helps local people. They don’t have to spend money on gas to drive to other cities to see a movie.”

To keep prices low, they don’t accept credit cards because credit card companies charge fees that get passed on to the consumer. Eddie and his family also work with volume in mind, and they keep costs down by running the theater themselves. “We all pitch in,” he says, referring to his wife, Priscilla, the couple’s two children and their daughter-in-law. “The biggest input is our time. But it’s kind of fun, even though we’re working. We always meet up at a certain time right before we open the doors. We get to hang out with each other, and it’s nice to have a common purpose.”

The family also takes its responsibility to the public very seriously. Per their policy, they stay open despite weather conditions and low ticket sales. “We have people coming from all over the region because of our prices,” Eddie says. “We



Photography contributed by Tony Young

Lafayette Cinema offers an inexpensive movie experience. The hometown theater offers first-run flicks at a discounted price.

try not to close for any reason unless there's a safety concern. We don't want to disappoint people who had to travel to get here."

Running a family-owned business does have its drawbacks. "It can make taking a vacation difficult because we're always working when other people are vacationing," he says.

THE DIGITAL AGE

In 2013, Lafayette Cinema went digital, meaning the Hollywood films to be shown came in online instead of in big film canisters. "Before that, we used actual film, and we had to splice everything together," Eddie says.

Modern cinemas require high-speed internet service, and North Central Telephone's ultra-fast fiber network has been a game-changer, Eddie says. "NCTC is an integral part of our business. We couldn't do it without them because we couldn't communicate with the movie companies or download the codes we need to show the movies."

And while high-speed internet has been a double-edged sword for the movie business, streaming services in people's homes haven't affected Lafayette Cinema as much as the corporate theater companies. "We still got people in seats even when first-run movies were streamed online at the same time as they came out in the theater," Eddie says. "I think that's because people come for the same experience as I did when I was a kid. A comedy is even funnier when you can hear other people around you laughing. And people tend to remember the experience and the movie itself more when they see it in the theater." 🗨️

A THEATER NEAR YOU

Lafayette Cinema is at 204 College St. in Lafayette. The theater offers first-run movies as well as some older blockbusters in the summer. The 30-foot screen has surround sound, and concessions include gourmet soft pretzels, cheese dip, popcorn, nachos and cotton candy produced in-house. Tickets start at \$3 for children ages 4 to 9, and those 10 and over get in for \$5. For more information, and to check showtimes and coming attractions, visit lafayettecinema.com and the Lafayette Cinema Facebook page.

A bit of history

The original Lafayette Cinema went up in the 1930s as a first-run theater. Also called The Devon Theatre, the original building burned. It was closed until 1984, when it was reopened.

Relishing SOMETHING NEW FOR veggies?

Extending shelf life may leave you in a pickle

For thousands of years, we've relied on pickling as a means of food preservation and storage. Since then, it's evolved into a culinary trend that extends well beyond the standard spears and slices that make up dill or bread-and-butter pickles. You can pickle almost any fruit or veggie to create briny snacks, colorful relishes and tasty garnishes.

We all know cucumbers can become delicious pickles. But watermelon rind is wonderfully sweet pickled. Turnips, asparagus, beets, bell peppers, parsnips, peaches and peppers can taste great after the process, too.

Pickling extends the harvest season well into winter when we long for the flavors of the summer garden. So, don't throw away the watermelon rinds from your summer picnic, and when you pick that peck of peppers, don't forget to pickle a few. 🗨

PICKLED PEACHES

- 3 cups sugar
- 2 cups distilled white vinegar
- 12 cinnamon sticks, divided
- 36 whole cloves, divided
- 18 soft peaches

In a large stainless steel stockpot over medium heat, bring 1 cup water, sugar, vinegar, 6 cinnamon sticks and 18 cloves to a boil, stirring to dissolve sugar. Reduce heat to medium-low and add peaches. Gently simmer, without boiling, until peaches are heated through and a fork pierces the fruit with no resistance, 10 to 15 minutes.

Using a slotted spoon, divide peaches among six sterilized, 1-pint canning jars, placing peaches pit-side down. Add 1 of the remaining cinnamon sticks and 3 of the remaining cloves to each jar. Ladle cooking liquid into jars, filling each to within 1/2 inch of rim. Wipe the lip of each jar rim with a clean, wet cloth to remove any syrup or bits of fruit. Then, top each jar with a flat lid and screw on a threaded ring band without tightening completely. Roll jars on their sides to release any air bubbles that might be trapped in the peach cavities. Turn upright. Remove ring bands and lids, and add more cooking liquid, if needed because of settling, to fill jars to within 1/2 inch of rim. Replace lids and threaded ring bands, tightening completely to seal. Store pickled peaches in refrigerator for up to eight weeks.





WATERMELON RIND PICKLES

- 2 pounds watermelon rind
- 1/4 cup pickling salt
- 4 cups water, divided, plus more for boiling
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon broken-up cinnamon stick
- 1 1/2 teaspoons whole cloves
- 1/2 lemon, thinly sliced
- 5 maraschino cherries, halved — optional

Trim the dark green and pink parts from the watermelon rind and discard. Cut rind into 1-inch cubes and measure out 7 cups.

Put the watermelon rind in a large container with the pickling salt and 3 cups of the water. Add more water to cover the rinds, if necessary. Soak overnight.

Drain and rinse watermelon rind.

Cover the rind with cold water in a large saucepan. Simmer just until tender, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a nonreactive 6- to 8-quart kettle, combine the sugar, vinegar, cinnamon, whole cloves and remaining 1 cup water. Simmer the mixture for 10 minutes. Strain and discard the solids.

Pour the strained liquid back into the pan. Add the drained watermelon rind, lemon slices and maraschino cherries. Simmer the mixture until the watermelon rind is translucent, about 30 minutes.

Fill half-pint jars with the hot watermelon rind and syrup mixture, leaving 1/2 inch of headspace. Add the lids. Process in a boiling water bath for 5 minutes, and remove jars. Let the jars cool on a rack. Serve and enjoy. Properly canned, watermelon pickles will keep in a cool, dark, dry place for at least a year.

Note: If your jars didn't seal properly or you don't want to process them in boiling water, they will keep for about a month in the refrigerator.

REFRIGERATOR PICKLES

- 5 1/2 cups, about 1 1/2 pounds, thinly sliced (about 1/2-1/4-inch) pickling cucumbers
- 1 1/2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1 cup thinly sliced sweet onion
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons mustard seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon celery seeds
- 1/8 teaspoon ground turmeric

Combine cucumbers and salt in a large, shallow bowl. Cover and chill 1 1/2 hours. Move cucumbers into a colander and rinse thoroughly under cold water. Drain well and return cucumbers to bowl. Add onion to bowl and toss with the cucumbers.

Combine the granulated sugar, white vinegar, apple cider vinegar, brown sugar, mustard seeds, celery seeds and ground turmeric in a medium saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, stirring until the sugar dissolves.

Pour the hot vinegar mixture over cucumber mixture. Let stand at room temperature 1 hour. Cover and refrigerate 24 hours. Store in an airtight container in refrigerator up to one month.



PICKLED BRUSSELS SPROUTS

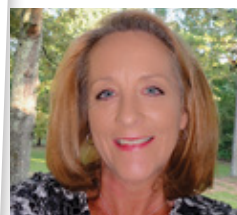
- 1 pound Brussels sprouts
- 1 1/2 cups apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon pickling salt
- 20 peppercorns, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon yellow mustard seeds, divided
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 bay leaves

Trim the sprouts and cut them in half. Set aside. Combine vinegar, water and salt in a stainless steel pot and bring to a boil.

Divide the peppercorns, mustard seeds, garlic cloves and bay leaves between two prepared pint jars. Pack sprouts into jars and pour brine over the sprouts. Use a wooden chopstick to remove air bubbles from jars.

Wipe rims, apply lids and rings and process in a boiling water bath for 10 minutes.

When time is up, remove jars from canner and let cool on a folded towel. When jars are cool, test seals. If seals are good, jars can be stored in the pantry (any unsealed jars should be refrigerated). Give pickles at least 48 hours before you eat them, so that the brine fully penetrates the sprouts. Sealed jars will keep up to one year on the pantry shelf.



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