

<https://thefnp.com/tncms/asset/editorial/7583d1cd-eab1-41df-8085-a53fe7e6addf/>

HOT

## Cadillac Café: A tiny place with big personality

By KRISTA G. FARRIS Special to The Winchester Star

Jun 4, 2026

1 of 5



Cadillac Café owner Laura Latimer, left, has a laugh with friend and customer Elizabeth Moseley as she buys snacks and lunch items made by Latimer.

Jeff Taylor/The

At just 280 square feet, what the Cadillac Café lacks in size it makes up for in products and personality. The latter is illustrated by a new, colorful mural on the side of the tiny white building at 1200 Valley Ave. in Winchester.

The wee little health-conscious neighborhood convenience store occupies what was most recently a Gringo Gordo outpost across from Handley High School. Laura Latimer runs the shop and has been busy getting the business up and running.

Latimer is focused on offering healthy, quick food and treats, hot coffee, cold beverages and more. The business operates on an honor system from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Customers can pay using Venmo or with cash. Latimer is behind the counter making energy bites, coffee and other snacks Monday through Saturday from 6 to 11 a.m.

Cadillac Café features products from seven different vendors who share a vision of bringing healthy, local food to the community. Customers will find chicken salad, crustless peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, quinoa cookies and fresh eggs, along with hot coffee from Front Royal roaster Wuuds Coffee.

“The healthy community is what I am trying to draw in — joggers, people walking their dogs or out with their kids” Latimer said. She notes that the sidewalks around Handley are popular with people exercising at all hours of the day. “Our shop is ‘grab and go,’ but people are welcome to stay, sit and talk.” There’s a high-top table with stools inside for a handful of people. Outdoor seating is also available.

Cadillac Café offers many details to make customers feel welcome. There's a bowl filled with water for dogs by the outdoor tables, and special canine treats are often left next to it.

There's even a pair of scissors tucked into the dirt of the raised garden bed by the building in case you want to cut a bit of cilantro or another herb on your way out the door.

The quest to serve the community and develop a healthy quick-stop shop has attracted other vendors.

Inside a freezer at Cadillac Café you'll find sweet treats from Winchester-based Uncle Beehive's Ice Cream, which uses fresh cream from a Pennsylvania dairy and naturally-based products.

Packaged micogreens and microgreen-infused fruit juices from Front Royal-based Robby D's Little Greens are in a mini-fridge, along with microgreen and mushroom seasonings.

K2 Slice of Heaven offers ILLY Italian cold brew coffee drinks, juice and grab-and-go baked goods.

Garden Gate Cut Flower Farm offers cute succulents planted in vintage teacups, small plants, cut flower arrangements and bouquets to bring a pop of joy to your day.

Intuitive Advising by Matt Dillingham advertises his services at Cadillac Café, if you're looking to pair some financial Zen with your morning coffee. He offers tactical credit repair to help individuals and entrepreneurs.

On a recent morning, KJ Sager was at the café to talk about the water she sells. She and a partner purchased an Enagic water filter machine that creates Kangen alkaline water. In short, you can bring your own container or purchase one at the café to fill with drinking water that has gone through electrolysis and is infused with molecular hydrogen. Sager says alkaline water that has been filtered this way "has been studied as an antioxidant and has potential health benefits."

Mixed a certain way, it can be used to clean surfaces without harsh chemicals, too.

There's a filling station where you can choose the quantity of water to buy and even follow instructions to mix your own special blends. Drinking water automatically comes out of the filter. You can also make a "beauty blend" for your skin. Choose a more acidic mix to create "cleaning water."

Sager suggests bringing your own glass containers or stainless-steel water bottles to help cut down on the amount of microplastics that enter our environment. However, she does sell plastic gallon jugs and blue bags for purchase on-site if needed.

If you're drawn in by the colorful mural on the side of the Cadillac Café painted by local artist Jeff Ryan, be sure to check out the walls inside, too, where paintings by local artists are for sale.

The name Cadillac Café is a nod to the "good, old Winchester vibe" that Latimer says evokes the Patsy Cline era (the country music legend hailed from Winchester). In addition, Latimer's daughter Catherine (one of her five adult children) was nicknamed "Cadillac" by her brothers when she was young. In fact, Catherine's face is included in the mural. There are other ways Latimer has incorporated a familial vibe into the business, like naming sandwiches after one son and a patio after another.

She notes that the vendors who have joined together to stock the shelves at the Cadillac Café have begun to feel like a large, supportive family. She hopes you'll walk through the door and find similar comfort in a hot cup coffee, a pretty little plant or something else you discover in the tiny neighborhood store.

CBurton