

Location:

103 Cecil Hurd Highway
LaJose, PA

County:

Clearfield

Description:

Business purchase loan

Total Project Cost:

\$115,000



LaJose Hotel



People:

Patricia Fields makes a delicious 50/50 burger, from a custom-ground mix of beef and bacon. “Everybody who’s had ‘em has loved ‘em,” she says. She and Brent “Butch” Hartzfeld parlayed the 50/50 and other “down home” offerings – plus great customer service – into success at Butch’s 101 Pit Stop, his existing restaurant/bar business in Curwensville. A for-sale sign led them into LaJose Hotel, a bar & grill located deep in the PA Wilds. There they observed steady customers, but also underutilized rooms and outdated equipment. And out back? A piece of paradise. “To sit out on the patio and look toward the woods, to me is a relaxing thing,” says Patty. “All you see is the field and trees.”

Progress:

Previously a bar/restaurant employee, this time Patty aimed to be a co-owner. A banker referred the couple to The Progress Fund, which loaned \$95,000 toward the purchase of the business.

Impact:

“This is the first time my name is on a business,” says Patty. She and Butch are planning a total revamp of the late-19th-century building, which will increase table space, enhance the patio and facilitate new menu items: soups and chilis, chicken and gravy over mashed potatoes, steaks and, of course, the 50/50 burger. “The only way you can know what it tastes like,” she teases, “is to try one.”

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