The Border Bar and Grill

After Dan and Crystal Friedrich spent decades in the oil industry and health care, they sought a change of pace and scenery. In 2021, they purchased The Border Bar and Grill in Turner, embarking on a new chapter as small business owners. In 2023, a routine Department of Environmental Quality survey revealed elevated nitrate levels in the establishment's water supply. Because The Border Bar and Grill operates as a transient non-community public water source, this finding triggered the need for an engineer's report. Realizing the path forward would be challenging, the Friedrichs turned to the Montana Small Business Development Center for assistance.

Earlier, in 2021, the Friedrichs worked closely with the SBDC to develop a comprehensive business plan and accurate financial projections. When the nitrate issue arose, they partnered with the regional director in Havre to secure a US Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant for $20,000. This critical funding allowed a Kalispell engineering firm to conduct a thorough design report, complete plans and develop specifications to remedy the water quality concern. Thanks to determination on all sides, The Border Bar and Grill is back on track and poised for continued success.

With support from the SBDC, the Friedrichs have made their business even more vibrant than it was four years ago. They have retained four full-time jobs, effectively resolved the water system challenges and continued to operate safely for the community. Committed to giving back, the Friedrichs sponsor local sports teams, helping to ensure every player enjoys a safe and rewarding season.

Regional Director Joe LaPlante said, "Dan and Crystal's consistent hard work and dedication to The Border Bar and Grill is inspiring. They have weathered the ups and downs of small business ownership, but every day they rise to the occasion and make things happen."

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- **Business Start**
- **4 Jobs Retained**
- **$20,000 USDA Rural Business Development Grant**

BEAR PAW
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Joe LaPlante
Regional Director



"We're grateful to Bear Paw Development Corporation and the SBDC for their support in securing an RBDG grant. This funding will help the Border Bar and Grill grow, create jobs and strengthen our community."

Daniel and Crystal Friedrich, owners of **The Border Bar and Grill**

TURNER