

HURRICANE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOODS

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BUSINESS

Zion Party Rentals provides event support

By Brian Passey

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ROCKVILLE — When GT Thomas started Zion Party Rentals four years ago he was just doing what came naturally to him.

"I've been in the hospitality business my entire life," says the Rockville resident.

From working as the bell captain at a downtown Seattle hotel to managing a catering business to running his own shuttle service to playing the pit boss for casino-style parties with fake money, Thomas has done it all.

Now he's using all that experience to provide event rentals and services for weddings, anniversaries, corporate events, reunions, birthday parties and more. As its name suggests, Zion Party Rentals focuses on Zion Canyon with events in and around the canyon and in coopera-



GT Thomas, owner of Zion Party Rentals, works with other Zion Canyon businesses to provide services for weddings, parties and other events. BRIAN PASSEY / HURRICANE VALLEY NEIGHBORHOODS

tion with local businesses.

As an 11-year resident of Zion Canyon, Thomas built his business on the relationships he's formed with local hotels and res-

taurants. Many of his events take place on land owned by the hotels with the Springdale restaurants providing the food.

"What I do is make it

easy for everybody," he says. "We have everything you need to complete the service."

The chefs and cooks just provide the food; Thomas

FOR MORE INFORMATION ZION PARTY RENTALS

Learn more about Zion Party Rentals at www.zionpartyrentals.com or by calling 632-7705.

and his employees take care of transporting and serving it.

Thomas doesn't just use one restaurant to provide the food for his events. The Bit & Spur, Parallel 88, The Spotted Dog and the Whiptail Grill are among the Springdale-based eateries he works with.

Zion Party Rentals has also organized events at Springdale's Canyon Community Center through the years — mostly weddings, says Julie Hancock, director of the venue.

"It's perfect," she says of the arrangement. "It really helps the people who are renting the building. They don't have to worry about set-up/take-down. ...

It makes it easy for folks to come in, have their event and have fun."

When Thomas and his workers arrive they bring everything with them, taking much of the planning stress from those renting the facility.

Hancock says Thomas and his staff are always professional and receive plenty of comments from those who rent the space at the Canyon Community Center.

She also likes that Zion Party Rentals is a local company, which goes along with the town of Springdale's emphasis on supporting local businesses.