

## Bubba's Bar-B-Que



Michael Thomas did not want to buy a “job,” he wanted to buy a business and that’s what he set out to do when he decided to buy rights to Bubba’s franchise recipes along with the rest of what comes with that right or privilege. In July 2001 Michael Thomas opened Bubba’s Bar-B-Que in Cody, Wyoming.

Michael earned a degree in physical education from the University of Wyoming, but learned the ethics of business working in the family-owned convenience store and deli as he grew up in Jackson, Wyoming. He knew that taking the NxLevel class through the SBDC, he would learn the right way to put together a business plan and learn the basics of operating a business.

He knew that initially it would require hard work and long hours. Michael knew it would pay off and with the help of First National Bank and Trust Company and an SBA Loan opened Bubba’s Bar-B-Que on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was heavy tourist season in Cody, Wyoming, and turned out to be the experience of a lifetime. He had hired every cook that applied, but not enough dishwashers and ended up washing dishes until 3:30 a.m. and was back at 5:30 a.m. to open for breakfast.



Bubba’s business in January is about one-third of what it is in July, so it can be a “feast or famine” environment. In the winter they employ around 35 people and in the summer that number pushes 60. They find that good service and great food made from scratch is the secret to their success. With good management in place, Bubba’s runs a smooth operation. They are working hard to cater to the Park County base and are very interested in local business. They have an extensive menu and offer a catering business.

Sarah Thomas has a degree from Texas A&M in accounting and manages the bookkeeping for Bubba’s. Michael and Sarah live outside Cody on the North Fork. They sponsor kids for hockey, trapshooting, coupons for Little League Baseball, and gift certificates are provided for non-profits.



For more information on Bubba’s Bar-B-Que you can find them at 512 Yellowstone Avenue, Cody, Wyoming 82414, 307-587-7427, or e-mail: [mbt@180com.net](mailto:mbt@180com.net).