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Steve Albert



Steve and Mindy Albert are pictured this year on their 29th anniversary.

COURTESY PHOTO/BRUSH BEET EXPRESS

By JENNI GRUBBS

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When he was a teenager, Steve Albert decided he wanted to work for himself one day.

He was not sure what kind of business he would create and then work at as his own boss, but Albert knew that was his goal.

And it is one that he achieved, as he owns Hometown Auto & Hardware in Brush

That did not mean reaching it came easily, though.

“My 30th birthday was the hardest day,” Albert recalled. “I was still working for somebody else. I think I was 33 when I made the jump.”

Now in his early 50s, Albert has achieved many goals. He is married with two grown sons and one son still in school in Brush. He is a successful businessman with many people working for him. And he has seen his business grow and expand over the years.

“Man, it was something I wanted for some reason,” he said of having his own business. “It’s worked out.”

Early years

Albert was born in 1967 in Fort Morgan, which is where he started his education.

But his family moved to Brush when he was in first grade.

“My dad was a farmer, and he rented a farm,” Albert recalled. “The farm got sold, and we ended up in Hillrose.

That’s pretty much where we stayed.”

He was the third youngest of eight kids, with six brothers and one sister.

“It was a big family,” Albert said. “It was fun. We lived in Hillrose. You didn’t go to town much. My family didn’t have a lot of money.”

He and his siblings would play on their own, making up “stuff to do” with each other at home.

“I had a good childhood,” he said. “Very loving parents and a big family, so there was always somebody to play or argue with.”

Albert went to Thomson Primary School, Brush Central School, Brush Junior High School and Brush High School.

Even as a boy, he found work he could do at Miller’s Grocery.

“In Hillrose, there was a little grocery store,” Albert said. “I stocked shelves there.”

That was when he was 10, 11 and 12 years old.

His first year at BHS, he played basketball, but he soon found something else he wanted to do more.

“Once I got to high school, I went to work,” Albert said. “I worked for a farmer out there (by Hillrose), painting out-buildings, mowing and watering the lawn. He’s still one of my customers today.”

That was on Parachute Farms, and three of Albert’s brothers also worked there for the farmer.

“His son is a customer today, too,” Albert said. “He has a son the age of my youngest son. It’s kind of funny how

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