

# ALBERT THE MAN BEHIND ‘HOMETOWN’

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clude Ladies Nights, barbecue contests and customer appreciation and a Mother’s Day gardening event.

“They are a lot of work, but they’re the most fun,” Steve said.

At the annual April customer appreciation barbecue, the store serves food to an average of about 350 people, he said.

“That’s a good turnout for Brush,” Steve said. “It’s good food, and everybody will come.

These days, he does not get to help or work with his customers all the time, since there is always paperwork and management duties calling. But when he does get to be behind the counter or answer the phone to help someone, that reminds him of why he has this business.

“My customers are the biggest,” he said of what he likes about his day-to-day life as the owner of the store. “That and seeing employees find success, when they figure out something difficult for them.”

## Future plans

Steve’s life is very much entwined with owning and operating Hometown Auto & Hardware at this point, but he knows that at some point he will be ready to move on and retire.

But that day has not yet arrived.

When that does happen, he may find himself with time to pursue the potential hobbies and interests that have gone by the wayside while he has been busy running his business.

“I have no time for hobbies,” he said. “I would like to have them. I have a great big shop at home filled with tools. In high school, I had a camera and I loved taking pictures.”

And just like the tools, he currently has a camera that he has not gotten to use for lack of free time.

“I bought a nice camera, and now my wife’s a hell of a photographer,” Steve said. “She loves taking pictures now. She’s pretty good at it.”

And maybe she’ll be able to teach him a thing or two behind the lens when he has more time. But he will buy an even newer, better camera at that point, he said.

Another possibility for retirement will be just spending



The Albert family is pictured together. From left are: son Seth, mom Mindy, dad Steve, son Sawyer and son Ryan.

COURTESY PHOTO  
BRUSH BEET EXPRESS

time in that shop at his house.

“I could be a professional tinkerer,” Steve said. “I’d love to tinker around in my shop.”

He also wouldn’t mind getting a garden going.

All of these ideas are floating around in his head.

“We keep talking about that because it’s getting closer,” Steve said. “One to five years... If we get to that point, we would look to sell the business. I don’t want to die in this chair.”

He also hopes to one day have a grandchild or many grandchildren to spoil rotten.

“I would love to have them at some point,” Steve said. “Hopefully at some time in the future, because I would love to spoil a grandbaby.”

But those future plans do not mean he is ready to stop working for himself at the business he built just yet.



**East Morgan County Hospital**

**East Morgan County Hospital Bistro Weekly Menu**  
2400 W. Edison, Brush

**Dine In or Take Out!**  
**Lunch Special: \$6.73 with a 20 oz. drink: \$7.68**  
*\*Soup and dessert not included*

<p><b>Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup></b> Beef and Broccoli Stir Fry Over Steamed Rice Soup: Gazpacho Dessert: Cheesecake</p> <p><b>Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup></b> Fisherman’s Platter with Hush Puppies &amp; Fries Soup: Broccoli Cheddar Dessert: Pudding Parfait</p> <p><b>Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup></b> Quesadilla with Southern Slaw and Whole Pinto Beans Soup: Chef’s Choice Dessert: Assorted</p>	<p><b>Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup></b> Grilled Brie and Apple Sandwich with Fresh Fruit Soup: Minestrone Dessert: Strawberry Daiquiri Cake</p> <p><b>Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup></b> Country Style Ribs with Baked Beans and Potato Salad Soup: Beef Barley Dessert: Tart</p> <p><b>Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup></b> Chicken Pesto Pasta with Side Salad Soup: Chicken &amp; Orzo Dessert: Ice Cream</p>
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**Hours:**  
**Breakfast 7:00am-10:30am; Lunch 11:00am-3:00pm; Dinner 3:30pm-7:00pm**