

Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy

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## Chatter BOX

### Blood drive

The Arcola Student Council is sponsoring a community blood drive from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. Thursday, April 13 in the jr. high gym at 351 W. Washington St. To donate, contact John Craig at 217-268-4962 or visit [www.blood-center.org](http://www.blood-center.org) and use code 70644 to locate the drive. You may also call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are required.

### Scam prevention seminar at church

The Arcola Presbyterian Church, 305 E. Jefferson St., Arcola is hosting a seminar on scamming on Wednesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. The informational meeting will address steps to prevent being scammed and steps to take if one feels they have been scammed. All ages are welcome to the seminar where speakers will include Douglas County Sheriff Nate Chaplin and former Sheriff Josh Blackwell. Refreshments will be served following.

### Class of '68 reunion

The Arcola High School Class of 1968's 55th class reunion is set for July 29 at the Kaskaskia Country Club. Please email your contact information to [arcola68reunion@yahoo.com](mailto:arcola68reunion@yahoo.com) or [janperrey@aol.com](mailto:janperrey@aol.com).

### Strides Against Hunger walk/run

Strides Against Hunger 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk & Dog Walk, a fundraiser event in Arcola to benefit the Arcola Food Pantry will be held Saturday, April 15. Look for more information next week.

### Quilter klatch

Quilters are invited to gather Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. in the Arcola Center to share their time and mutual interests with other quilters. For information contact 217-417-1388.

### New numbers

Better Newspapers Inc., which owns the Arcola Record-Herald, is consolidating offices. For news and advertising, please call our Tuscola office at 217-253-5086 or our Arthur office at 217-543-2151.

### Upcoming dates

- March 22, Beginning of Ramadan
- April 1, April Fool's Day
- April 2, Palm Sunday
- April 5, Passover
- April 7, Good Friday
- April 9, Easter
- April 30, Children's Day in Arcola

# Chris Monahan elected president of ABMA during 106th convention

The descendant of a century-old Arcola family business, Chris Monahan was elected president of a century-old trade association Thursday, March 23. Monahan, who manages Brush Fibers, Inc. in Arcola, took the helm of the American Brush Manufacturer's Association during its 106th annual convention held at the historic Hotel del Coronado near San Diego, Calif.

Monahan is a fourth generation descendant of the Thomas Monahan Company and fifth generation in the cleaning tool industry spanning more than 150 years. The Monahan broom corn legacy began with Irish immigrant Patrick Monahan, who started a broom corn brokerage firm in 1867 in Arcola.

Patrick turned the business over to his cousin, Thomas Lyons, and it became known as The Thomas Lyons Company circa 1875. Patrick's son, Thomas F. Monahan, worked for Lyons and purchased the company in 1922 renaming it The Thomas Monahan Company. As the family and business grew, it split into several different companies including Monahan Partners, Brush Fibers, Caddy Supply, Monahan Filaments, Monahan FiberWorx and PelRay International in Texas.

Brush Fibers was established in 1979 as an importer and distributor of vegetable fibers, animal hair, blocks and wire. Products include Tampico, Palmyra, arenga, rice root, coco fiber, sherbro, hog hair, horse hair, goat hair, badger hair, brush blocks and brush staple wire. The company purchased PelRay International in 2019. Since 2008, PelRay International has been a leading supplier of raw materials to broom, brush and mop manufacturers worldwide.

The Monahan family was well represented



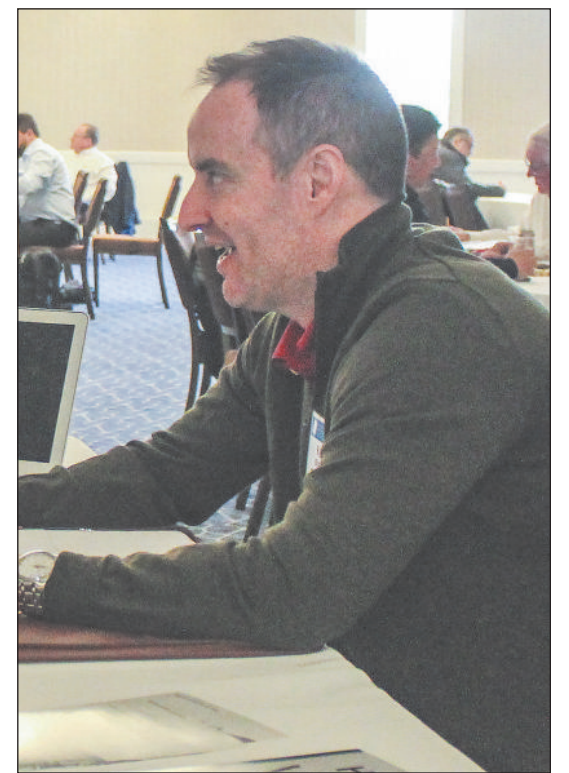
CHRIS MONAHAN, left, presents the president's trophy to Greg Miller of Mill-Rose Company, outgoing president of the American Brush Manufacturer's Association. Monahan was elected president of the association last week in San Diego. Photo by David Porter.

at the convention with Kevin Monahan, president of Monahan Partners, and Jon and Matt

Monahan representing Brush Fibers. Also on hand were several PelRay representatives.



FROM LEFT, Chris and Jon Monahan representing Monahan Filaments, and Kevin Monahan, president of Monahan Partners, meet with potential clients during the 106th annual American Brush Manufacturer's Association convention held last week in San Diego. Photo by David Porter.



THE CAST AND CREW posed for a group photo during rehearsals for the Arcola High School Drama Club's production of "Clue - on Stage." The play was presented on March 18 and 19 on the AHS stage located in the Junior High Gym. Seated (l-r): Izzy Spracklen, Carolina Torres, Isabelle Hensley, Maria Torres, Eadie Budd, Kaylee McKinney, Shelby Roberts-McGeehon, Damaris Silguero. Standing: Kelsey Moore, Elena Garza, Reynol Oyervides, Bianca Arguelles, Mark Vazquez, Reyli Vega, Hailey Trotter, Alex Hawn, Morgan Doud, Aaron Gaona, Aaliyah Garza, Tyler Smith, Laney Nelson, Mykah Gomez, Cecilia Lozano, Emma Vazquez. The play was directed by Breanne Reinhard. Photo by Nancy Rairden.