

Capitol Bones Big Band Coming

The SonoKlect Series at Washington and Lee University will present Matt Niess and The Capitol Bones All-Brass Big Band in concert on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m. in Wilson Concert Hall, Wilson Hall. Admission is free. A reception follows the performance.

The program will include two works by local composer and series director Terry Vosbein, marking the continuation of a long-standing artistic collaboration between Vosbein and Niess.

“When I first heard this band they blew me away. I knew I had to bring them to Lexington,” said Vosbein.

Founded in 1990 by trombonist Dr. Matt Niess, The Capitol Bones are acclaimed for their bold sound and unique instrumentation. While modeled after a traditional jazz big band, the group sets itself apart with a mellophone section — four mellophones in place of saxophones — creating a distinctive timbre that blends the brilliance of trumpets with the warmth of trombones.

Darden Purcell, a Washington, D.C.-based jazz vocalist, is an active featured soloist with symphony orchestras, big bands and small ensembles, band leader and is the director of Jazz Studies at George Mason University.

Vosbein, who has been writing big band music for more than five decades, has developed a national reputation for
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‘Bring Your Old Toys’ RHS Project Seeks Community Involvement

Editor’s note: The following story was written by Eric Wilson, executive director of the Rockbridge Historical Society.

This Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Rockbridge Historical Society is extending its hours for a free community open house featuring its 2025 exhibit, “Rockbridge at Play: Toys, Games & Histories.”

Children, friends, and teams are especially welcome — along with their

parents and more senior “kids of all ages” — as are toys of all eras.

It doesn’t take a viewing of Pixar’s “Toy Story” to appreciate that toys are engines of pleasure at one stage in their life cycle, vehicles of nostalgia in another. Of neglect, no less, in the fading arcs of time. This community-wide event provides an occasion to locate well-remembered if often half-lost toys, as well as photographs representing other activities like childhood sports and scouting; trips to the circus or cinema; sewing, crafting and drawing.

Gathering with friends and family or other new neighbors, the daylong open house invites visitors

to discuss their objects’ features and associated memories with RHS staff, volunteers, and local collectors. This is not a more formal curatorial assessment or appraisal, like “Antiques Roadshow.” However, these more patient comparisons and conversations can prove vital assets, themselves, for the Society’s research, and communally shared understandings of the important stories that mark different aspects of childhood, within our area, and eras beyond.

In that collective spirit, RHS board members have already loaned a range of their own keepsakes to seed the show: Fisher Price and Star Wars figure
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‘Is U.S. Facing Crisis?’ Debate Topic

Virginia Military Institute’s Center for Leadership and Ethics (CLE) will host a Steamboat Institute Campus Liberty Tour Debate, Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. in Gillis Theater, Marshall Hall.

The debate resolution is: Be it resolved; the U.S. is experiencing a constitutional crisis.

Arguing the affirmative will be Daniel Farbman, associate professor and McHale Faculty Research Scholar of Boston College Law School. Arguing the negative will be Jonathan Turley, the J.B. Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of Public
See Debate, page B2



ANDREW SCOTT is bringing multiple characters to life in National Theatre Live’s “Vanya” that will be shown on the cinema screen in Stackhouse Theater Oct. 7.

National Theatre’s ‘Vanya’ Showing

Washington and Lee University’s Lenfest Center’s Outreach & Engagement (O&E) Series announces NTL’s “Vanya,” showing on the Stackhouse cinema screen, located in Elrod Commons, on Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Filmed live, during its sold-out runs from The Duke of York’s Theatre on the West End, it has a running time at 1 hour 45 minutes, with no interval and is rated PG.

National Theatre Live’s state-of-the-art filming techniques are tailored to every play, bringing viewers each performance as it happens.

Andrew Scott (“Fleabag”) brings multiple characters to life in Simon Stephens’ (“The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time”) radical new version of Chekhov’s “Uncle Vanya.”

Hopes, dreams, and regrets are thrust into sharp focus in this one-man adaptation which explores the complexities of human emotions.

Tickets are required. Tickets prices are \$20 general admission; and \$8 for students. On-line ticket sales are available at <https://my.wlu.edu/lenfest-center/vanya>.

Tickets can be bought the night of the performance on-site at the Stackhouse Theater.

The box office is open for in-person sales Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patrons can contact the box office by calling (540) 458-8000 or emailing boxoffice@wlu.edu.

The National Theatre Live is sponsored in part by Class of ’64 Performing Arts Fund.

Veterans Urged To Walk In Parade

All area veterans — whether they served in active, reserve or National Guard service and whether or not they served in wartime or peace — are invited to walk with their families in the upcoming Veterans Day parade in Lexington.

The parade will start at Oak Grove Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. and proceed down Main Street to the Veterans Memorial where there will be a ceremony and guest speakers.

The parade is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the memorial, the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the World War I captured German cannon given to Rockbridge County to honor WWI veterans, VMI Founders Day and, most of all, veterans.

There are two more reasons for the parade, said Bob Hopkins, parade chairman. “This is an opportunity for families to show honor for their veteran by walking proudly together with him or her. The second objective for the parade is to try to educate school children on who veterans are and why we honor them on Veterans Day.”

That is why, he noted, Rockbridge County Public Schools is send-
See Veterans, page B2

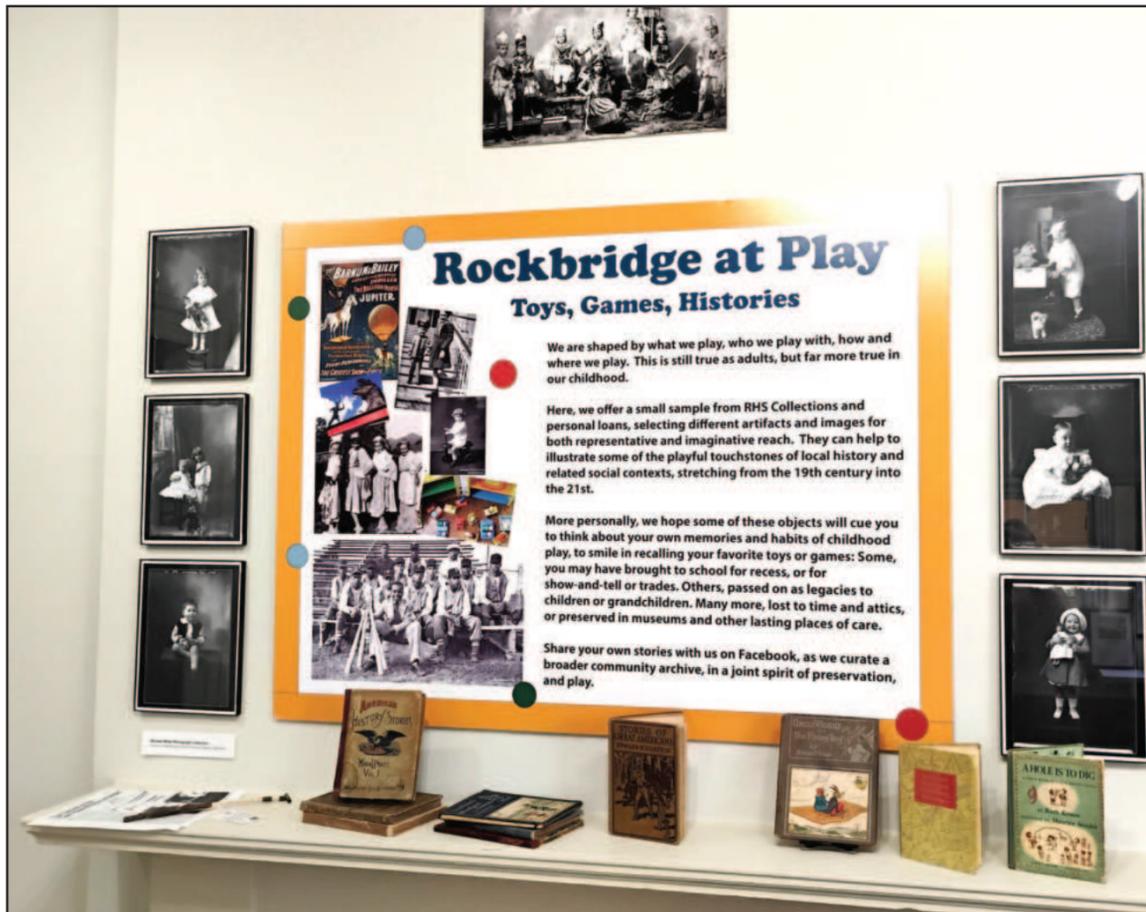
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The exhibit's entry display invites visitors to both imagine and recall different eras and types of play, fronting a gallery of early 20th century photos of children dressed up with their favorite dolls and toys, as captured by Michael Miley in his Lexington Studio. On the mantle are classic children's books from the era, and a "Gee-Haw Whimmy-Diddle" hand-whittled and donated by a 90-year-old former Boy Scout on the exhibit's opening day. (Eric Wilson photo)

Toys

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rines from the 1970s; a pine box derby car made for a Cub Scout competition in the 1990s; a homemade wooden tricycle that's been enjoyed across three generations of one family, still used and enjoyed a quarter of the way into the 21st century; "Uncle Wiggly" books and other classic children's literature from the first decades of the 20th century.

Your own adolescent trophies and team uniforms, yearbook photos and memorabilia as fans of current and bygone area high schools ... all provide an excellent complement to those already summoned already in the Remsburg Gallery.

The social event may also prove an opportunity to display and narrate your object for others, through one of three routes. First, and most simply: uploading photographs of your objects (or historic photos, themselves) to RHS' social media gallery, accompanied by short narratives or anecdotes that contextualize the object, and its personal or social significance.

Second, if your choices appear to complement standing displays – or supplement felt absences – you might temporarily loan them for the months ahead, having already enlisted several others when curating the show. With the exhibition running through December, we'd love to rotate in other locally sourced objects and stories that Rockbridge residents would like to feature more publicly. These additions will extend both the social and chronological range of our installations, supplying varied prompts to memory, while cueing themes that speak to different people, with different affinities.

Finally, for toys with local provenance that are looking for a trusted home (something saved from Grandma's attic, perhaps, but with no young or adult children now having space or interest to keep them, ahead), we can discuss donations to the Society's permanent collections.

With an echo from "The Sound of Music," "a few of [your] favorite things" – if well-tied to the evolving histories of Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge County – will expand RHS' stewardship mission. Al-

ready a favorite point of focus for this summer's visitors has been one of the grainy, metal, car-side speakers that Hull's Drive-In donated this summer to RHS' century-old archive.

Beyond things newly carried in, visitors can try their hand at old board games, or try to deduce and re-construct now elusive rules or traditions. "Just Games" will bring games to play onsite – a chance to compare past classics with current novelties – with the store loaning its collectors' edition of "LEXINGTON MONOPOLY" for the rest of the year.

You can also bring your own handcrafted ephemera and demonstrate their construction. On the very first day the doors opened, a local nonagenarian arrived to donate a wood-whittled "Gee-Haw Whimmy-Diddle," showing how it was made as a Boy Scout during the Depression. Even handheld video games, or phone-borne apps and viral trends, can spur singular or joint competition. Watching how people play with one another brings its own insights to these recreational terms, beyond the imaginative tools, themselves.

During the first half of the Museum's open house, the Jackson House will also be hosting its annual Apple Day festivities from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., closing East Washington Street to encourage fuller and more leisurely pedestrian traffic and street-side activities. While across the street, families can also fittingly participate in the range of kid-friendly activities that Jackson House has arranged: Shenandoah Valley dance traditions; timeless games like bobbing for apples, pin-the-tail on Little Sorrel; or period and seasonal crafts like decorating scarecrows. Opportunities there to stuff and sew fabric dolls with historic techniques provide their own creative complement, and keepsake takeaways, to those rare 19th and 20th century assemblages of personally stitched dolls and clothing held in RHS collections.

To discuss your toys in advance, or to helpfully share photos to set the stage, contact me, Eric Wilson, at Director@RockbridgeHistory.org. You can also chime in with others on RHS' Facebook and Instagram pages.

Debate

continued from page B1
Interest Law at George Washington University Law School and Fox News contributor.



FARBMAN **TURLEY**

Guests will have the opportunity to record their stance on the debate topic in the pre- and post-debate polls. The moderator will be Kaylee McGhee White, editor-in-chief for Independent Women Features, and a Tony Blankley Senior Fellow at Steamboat Institute.

Col. David R. Gray, executive director of the CLE, stated, "The CLE is proud to host this debate as part of our 2025-26 programming. Our theme this year is 'American Values' in celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary of independence. This debate is an excellent example of freedom of speech within the framework of civil discourse. The topic of a constitutional crisis is an important one to have as we observe the semiquincentennial of our country's founding."

Since 2017, the CLE has incorporated a civil discourse/debate emphasis into its programming.

Since 2018, Steamboat Institute has brought compelling debates on controversial topics of the day to college campuses, engaging conservatives, liberals and centrists. "Our focus is on teaching students — and all who attend — how to think, not what to think," said Daniel Wagner, Campus Liberty Tour coordinator for The Steamboat Institute.

The debate is free and open to the public with an informal reception following. Registration is required to attend via the event website. For those unable to attend, the event will be livestreamed. For more information contact Lt. Col. Kim Connolly at connollykv@vmi.edu.

Band

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his inventive, richly orchestrated works. His partnership with The Capitol Bones reflects both his personal enthusiasm for the ensemble and the SonoKlect Series' mission to present cutting-edge contemporary music to the Lexington community.

The Capitol Bones have performed at the Kennedy Center, the International Trombone Festival, and venues across the country, earning praise for their innovative approach to the brass tradition.

"I love being able to bring new musical experiences to Lexington audiences," Vosbein added. "It excites me to see the smiles on their faces."

CMS
Chamber Music Society of Lexington, Virginia
Presents
Music from Bard
Saturday, October 4, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Artists	Works by
Mark Gallagher, clarinet	Malcolm Arnold
Marka Gustavsson, viola	Rebecca Clarke
Frank Corliss, piano	Thomas Ades
	Edward Elgar
	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
	Robert Schumann

Grace Episcopal Church
123 W. Washington Street, Lexington

Veterans

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ing a total of over 400 students from every school in the district, and Lexington is sending fifth-graders from Waddell Elementary to sing and the entire student body of 190 children from Lylburn Downing Middle School to be spectators.

Participants to date include Virginia Military Institute cadets and music contingent, fire and rescue vehicles, National Guard soldiers and vehicles, floats and Mark Cline as Uncle Sam. The first 500 children will get a free balloon and flag to wave, the Parry McCluer and Rockbridge County high school bands will play and their cheerleaders will carry banners announcing the veterans as they walk in groups of the branch of the military they served in.

"I urge all veterans to please plan to walk with their families," Hopkins said. "The community wants to thank you for your sacrifices and your service. This will be a red, white and blue day with lots of patriotism and pride."

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