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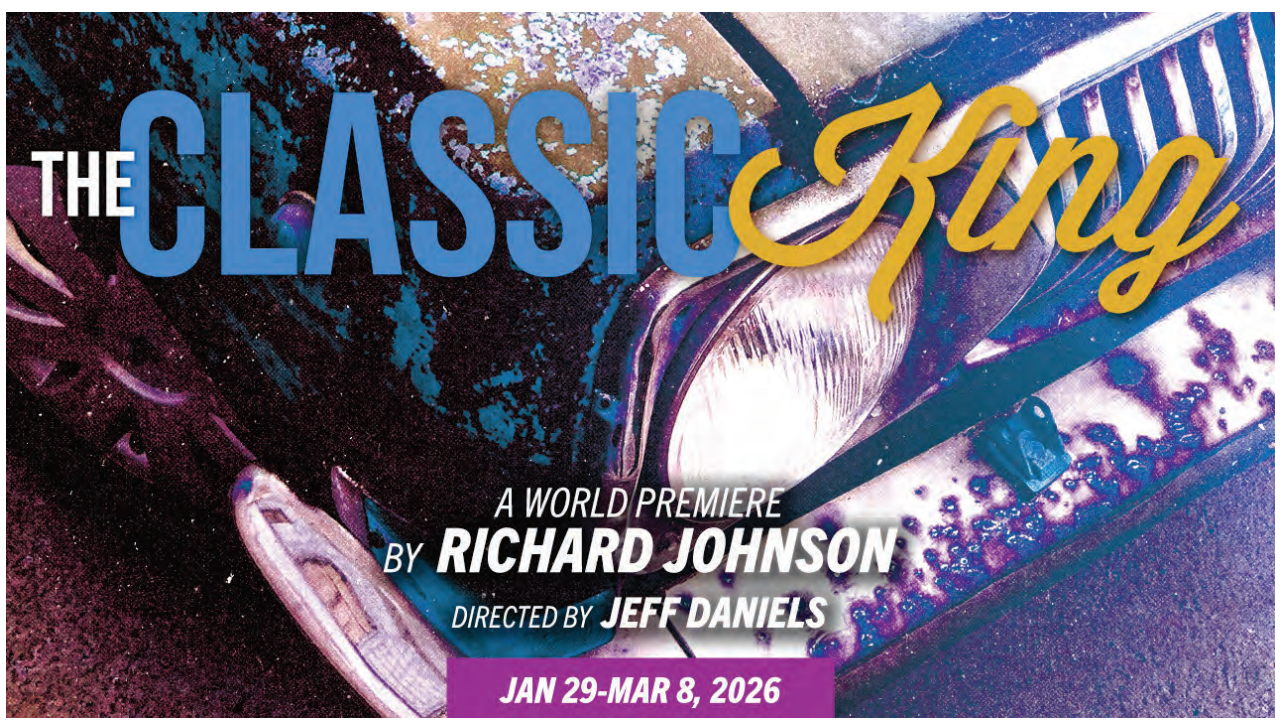
Former Print Editor of Automotive News Writes Comedy about Classic Cars for Purple Rose Theatre



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American 1 Credit Union Supports 24 Organizations Through 2025 Holiday Giving Initiative

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American 1 Credit Union is proud to celebrate the success of its 2025 Holiday Giving initiative, donating $8,250 to 24 organization this holiday season across Jackson, Washtenaw, Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Calhoun counties. Each department within the credit union selected a local organization to ensure contributions met the unique needs of their communities, reflecting American 1's commitment to being Boldly Generous.

The organizations receiving donations included Marshall Area Community Services, Hope Community Center, St. Louis Center, Bucket List Dreams for Veterans, The Salvation Army of Hillsdale, Rise Above, Aid in Milan, and many more.

"The holiday season reminds us of the power of community and the spirit of generosity," said Martha Fuerstenau, President and CEO of American 1 Credit Union. "Through our Boldly Generous initiative, we're honored to support the organizations that strengthen and enrich the counties we serve."

In addition to the departmental donations, the credit union's Community Partnership team brightened the season for local residents by covering the cost of groceries at area stores. Team members surprised shoppers at locations by donating a total of **$2,500**.

This initiative wraps up an incredible 75th year for Ameri-

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Where Generations Meet: Chelsea Senior Center and Chelsea Schools Grow Connections

Chelsea Senior Center
Thriving in 2025 & Celebrating 60 years!

A new year offers an opportunity to look ahead while also celebrating the relationships that ground and inspire us. At Chelsea Senior Center, many of those relationships are intergenerational, formed through a longstanding collaboration with the Chelsea School District that brings seniors and students together in ways that are both joyful and deeply impactful. From planting seeds in the spring to sharing stories, wisdom, and creativity across classrooms and com-

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January Events

New Member Offer
Jan. 2-9
New members who join receive 50% off February and March dues. Plus, receive a free gift.

Master Swim Tune Up (DEX)
Jan. 6 and 20 | 5:30pm-6:30pm | Tuesday and Thursday
You'll refine your strokes, swim more efficiently, and get personalized feedback. Our training will help boost your pool performance.

Healthy Bones Osteo Pilates (CHE)
Jan. 8-Feb. 5 | 9:30am-10:45am and 10:45am-12:00pm
FREE for Members, $95 Non-Members
This gentle yet effective Pilates class is designed specifically for individuals with osteopenia and osteoporosis. With a focus on posture, balance, core stability, and safe spinal alignment, you'll move through controlled exercises that help improve strength, flexibility, and coordination. Registration is required. Class size is limited. Level 2 requires instructor approval.

Wellness Challenge (CHE/DEX)
Jan. 12-March 13 | $30 Fee
Join our annual program that will have you tracking activities for prizes. You can also track healthy lifestyle habits as well. Sign up in Compete and go to the Member Service Desk to schedule your assessment.

Kickoff Meeting Information:
Jan. 5 | 7:00pm | CHE
Jan. 7 | 7:00pm | DEX

Fall Into Balance (DEX)
Jan. 13-March 5 | 10:30am-11:30am | Tuesdays and Thursdays | $304 Members, $352 Non-Members
Help prevent the risk of injury. Live a healthier and safer life by learning essential exercises to prevent falls.

Runner Rehab (DEX)
Jan. 14-March 4 | March 18-May 13 | 7:30am-8:30am | Wednesdays | $168 Members, $184 Non-Members
Join a class that can help you get back up to speed. We'll work on building resilience, reducing discomfort, and getting back to running stronger than ever.

Mindful Eating: Shift Your Food Perspective (DEX)
Jan. 26, 7:00pm | Jan. 28, 10:30am
We will have participants learn how to make more intentional food choices so you can have a healthier diet. Join our instructor, and together we can make eating a mindful practice.

LES MILLS BODYPUMP™ (CHE)
Jan. 12 | 6:00pm-7:00pm | FREE
Get ready for LES MILLS BODYPUMP HEAVY™! We're thrilled to roll out this format, so join us to try it at one of our pop-up classes. BODYPUMP HEAVY™ is tempo-based weightlifting that switches on your metabolic engine to build lean muscle like nothing else.

Grief Release Yoga (CHE)
Jan. 12 | 6:00pm | FREE
Join us for a special yoga class that will include gentle poses in a meditative environment. Whether you are carrying past or recent grief, you are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring a small photo or token of remembrance to place near your mat.

Pelvic Floor Health (CHE)
Jan. 13-Feb. 3 | 1:00pm | $84 Members, $92 Non-Members
Join fitness specialist Lis Cordeiro to learn how to manage symptoms and understand your body better. We can help you take control of your pelvic health soon. Please see the Member Service Desk for details or call 734-214-0220 (CHE).

ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE TRAINING CLASS (CHE)
Jan. 2 | 4:00pm | FREE | Conference Room
Discover your athletic potential with fitness specialist Omar Elreedi in this dynamic workshop designed for teens ages 12–17 and their parents. No registration is required.

ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE TRAINING WORKSHOP (CHE)
Jan. 19-Feb.9 | 6:00pm | $84 Members, $92 Non-Members
Discover your athletic potential with fitness specialist Omar Elreedi in this dynamic workshop designed for teens ages 12–17 and their parents. Be sure to sign up at the Member Service Desk. Both parents and teens need to update their waivers. Only the teen will need to pay.

COMING SOON:
Intro to Rowing (DEX)
Feb. 2-March 9 | 10:00am-10:30am and 10:30am-11:00am | $125 Members, $140 Non-Members
Join a beginner-friendly class to learn the basics of rowing and improve your form. This class is also open to seasoned rowers who are looking to refine their technique.

For more information, please visit the Member Service Desk.

CHELSEA WELLNESS CENTER | DEXTER WELLNESS CENTER | STOCKBRIDGE WELLNESS CENTER

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Where Generations Meet: Chelsea Senior Center and Chelsea Schools Grow Connections

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munity spaces, these experiences lie at the heart of a partnership built on the belief that meaningful connections across generations enrich everyone involved.

One of the earliest signs of spring arrives with Read and Seed, an annual program that brings Chelsea's youngest learners into the Trinh Pifer Intergenerational Garden at the Chelsea Senior Center. In April, Chelsea area preschoolers visit CSC, rolling up their sleeves for hands-on gardening alongside senior volunteers. Chelsea School District's youngest students sow seeds in the hoophouse, gently covering and watering them, and even sample a freshly harvested vegetable planted in February by senior volunteers for them to enjoy.. CSC volunteers read stories like The Crunching, Munching Caterpillar, I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato, and The Surprise Garden, blending literacy with discovery. Later in the spring, the preschoolers returned to see sprouting plants like green beans, bok choy, green onions, spinach, beets, turnips, radishes, kale, chervil, lettuce, nasturtium, cucumbers, yellow squash, and edamame.

Intergenerational connections continue throughout the summer when children from Camp Gabika, Chelsea School District's summer day camp, visit the intergenerational garden. As part of the program, students join in garden and craft activities often alongside Ease the Day participants, a caregiver respite program at Chelsea Senior Center. These shared experiences offer moments of joy, creativity, and connection for all involved.

During the holiday season, the youngest visitors return once more. Preschoolers and seniors decorate (and enjoy) cookies together in a sweet tradition.

Older students also play a meaningful role in the partnership between CSC and the school district. Each November, CSC organizes a panel of local veterans to visit Beach Middle School and share their experiences with sixth-grade classes. Students listen, ask thoughtful questions, and later write A Letter to a Veteran reflecting on what they learned. Senior volunteers at CSC read the letters and select standout writers to share their reflections at the Veterans Day Community Tribute.

In December, sixth-grade classes visit the senior center for their annual Generations project. Paired in teams of two, students interview a senior volunteer about what life was like when the senior was their age. The experience is as much about learning interpersonal skills as it is about history.

"We spend a lot of time working on interpersonal skills like looking your senior in the eye as they speak and asking questions," said sixth-grade teacher Mike Lott.

Afterward, students write thank-you letters to their interviewees, a gesture that often means a great deal to the seniors who participate.

"The sixth-grade interviews are such a powerful reminder that learning is as much about listening as it is about doing," Mike Kapolka, Chelsea School District Superintendent, said. "When our students take the time to sit with someone from another generation and ask meaningful questions, they begin to see life through a wider lens."

That lens widens even further in high school. Through the Lives Well Lived project, 12th-grade English students in teacher Valerie Johnson's classes interview seniors, asking a deceptively simple question: What does it mean to live life well? Students partner with a senior who has had a very different lived experience than they have. "By listening to their story, they're able to learn about other people's perspectives and then have the privilege of telling their story using the skills we worked on throughout the trimester," explained Johnson.

Working in small groups, students identify a theme in their interviewees' responses and produce three-minute documentaries centered on that idea.

Several weeks later, seniors are invited back to the school auditorium to watch the films on the big screen and discuss the students' creative choices.

"It's important for us to hear their perspective," explains senior student Nate Cobiechowski. "Our senior gave advice about dealing with struggles. It's important to hear from someone who's been through hard times."

Other groups found different but equally important ideas to highlight in their storytelling. "Our senior lived in a different country, and it made us realize how fortunate we are to live here," reflected Hunter Hartin.

For CSC member Diane Jara, the project is personal. "Some kids don't have other older adults in their lives, so connecting with a senior through these projects can really make a difference. My grandparents, for example, had all passed away before I could have those connections as a young person, and I would have valued hearing their perspective."

CSC Executive Director Jennifer Smith agrees, noting that the benefits flow both ways. "Meeting with students also helps change the perception of what it means to age," she said.

From planting seeds to sharing stories, the partnership between Chelsea Senior Center and Chelsea Schools continues to prove that when generations come together, everyone grows.

Chelsea Senior Center (CSC) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization located at 512 Washington Street in Chelsea, Michigan. Contact CSC at connected@chelseaseniors.org or (734) 475-9242. Chelsea Senior Center: Building community, creating connections, and enriching lives.

Chelsea Guardian

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Mission Statement:
Hard work, good work and creating and fostering great relationships are the keys to community success.

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Eric Bach Named to SNHU Dean's List

Eric Bach of Chelsea (48118) has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2025 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

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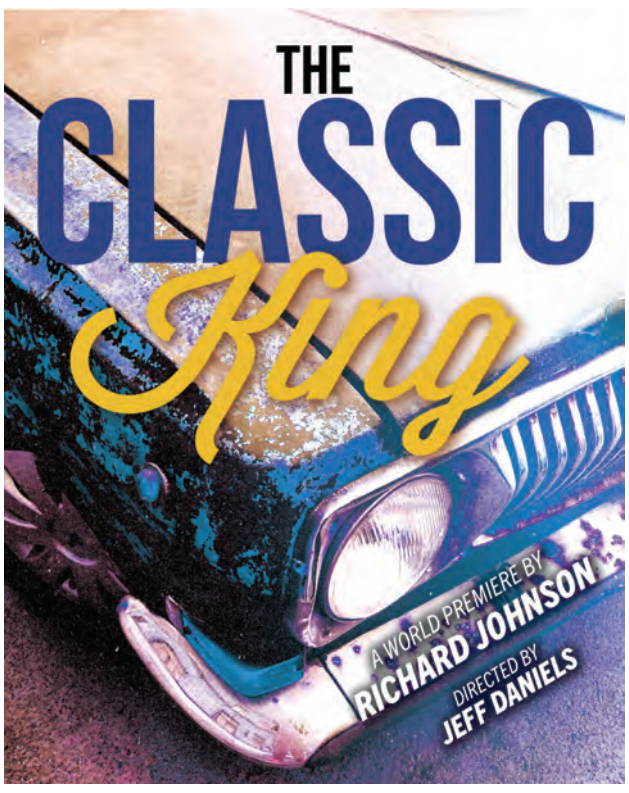
can 1 Credit Union. In 2025 alone, the credit union donated more than **$180,000** to local partners, organizations, and nonprofits in the communities it serves, underscoring its commitment to fostering financial wellness and community enrichment.

To learn more about American 1 Credit Union's Boldly Generous commitment, visit american-1cu.org/about-us.

About American 1 Credit Union

Established in 1950, American 1 Credit Union proudly serves over 66,000 members with the support of more than 280 employees and 16 branch locations across Jackson, Lenawee, Hillsdale, Washtenaw, and Calhoun counties. This year marks a significant milestone as American 1 Credit Union celebrates 75 years of service and commitment to creating financial wellness through personal, everyday banking in the communities it serves. For more information, visit American1CU.org.

Former Print Editor of Automotive News Writes Comedy about Classic Cars for Purple Rose Theatre



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The Purple Rose Theatre Company (PRTC) announces the winter production of their 35th season, "The Classic King" a world-premiere comedy by Richard Johnson. Tickets are on sale now.

In paying tribute to timeless automobiles, "The Classic King" paints a comic and heartbreaking portrait of three veteran used-car salesmen at a Metro Detroit dealership, struggling to cope with a changing industry and modern customers. When a sharp Gen Z salesman joins the team, he proposes a daring scheme to save the dealership — and its "dinosaur" salesmen — from extinction.

This production of "The Classic King" contains adult content and may not be suitable for children under the age of 13.

RICHARD JOHNSON (Playwright) is the retired print editor of Crain Communications' *Automotive News*, the leading newspaper of the global automobile industry. He previously was the publication's European Editor based in Frankfurt, Germany, and Asia Editor based in Tokyo, Japan. He later launched Crain's *Automotive News Europe* in London, where he was editor for eight years. Following retirement, he worked on a play about the history of the Ford Motor Company after World War II and joined the Birmingham Village Players' Playwrights@Work Group. "The Classic King" is his first play for the Purple Rose. He and his wife Alice raised four daughters around the world. Rick and Alice now live in Farmington Hills.

Directed by Jeff Daniels, the cast features Rico Bruce Wade* (Lansing), Ryan Carlson* (Clinton Township), Owen Squire Smith* (Grand Rapids), and Dez Walker* (Center Line). Set Design by Bart Bauer, Properties Design by Danna Segrest, Costume Design by Shelby Newport, Lighting Design by Stephen Sakowski, Sound Design by Brad Phillips. Stefanie Din* is the Stage Manager and Mary Toth* is the Assistant Stage Manager.

* Appearing through an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

Production Sponsors include Chelsea State Bank, Chelsea Community Foundation and Golling Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Chelsea. 2025-2026 Season Underwriters include The Rabbithood Fund, The Shubert Foundation and The Matilda R. Wilson Fund.

Performance Schedule

Performances of "The Classic King" at The Purple Rose run from Thursday, January 29 through Sunday, March 8, 2026. Previews, with reduced-price tickets, are available through Thursday, February 5, with talkbacks January 29 - February 1. The press opening is Friday, February 6 at 8:00pm.

Special Events and Partnerships

On the Saturday evening performance of February 21, there will be a "30s & 40s Meetup Night," a mixer with discounted tickets for anyone age 30-49 to make new friends with a cocktail hour at Ugly Dog Distillery (Chelsea, MI), followed by the performance. Those interested can call the Box Office at (734) 433-7673 to reserve a ticket.

"College Night," in which students receive pizza, a ticket to the performance and a talkback with artists for a heavily discounted $15 ticket price, will be on the evening performance of Saturday, February 28. Those interested can call the Box Office at (734) 433-7673 or use the code "COLLEGE" at www.PurpleRoseTheatre.org to reserve a ticket.

For more information about these special events, email caitlin@purplerosetheatre.org.

Ticket Information

Performances are Wednesday - Sunday at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan 48118. The performance calendar can be found at https://www.purplerosetheatre.org/calendar/

Ticket prices start at $30 with special discounts for seniors, patrons 30 years or younger, members of the military, teachers, and groups (12+).

For more information or to make reservations call (734) 433-7673 or go to www.purplerosetheatre.org.

About The Purple Rose Theatre Company

Founded in 1991 by actor, director, playwright, musician, and Chelsea native Jeff Daniels, The Purple Rose Theatre Company is a professional, unionized theatre and creative home for local Michigan artists to produce original American plays. At the PRTC, patrons experience an intimate encounter with live theatre without breaking the bank. Broadway quality at Midwest prices.

Continuing this season, The Purple Rose is leading with smart comedy: plays that allow audiences to feel good, laugh, and just maybe get a message out of it too.

The Purple Rose also provides preview talk-backs, free play readings, and ticket donations to local fundraisers. It commissions new work from established and early-career playwrights. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit professional theatre, the PRTC operates under a Small Professional Theatre agreement with the Actors' Equity Association.

For more information contact PRTC Marketing Communications Specialist, Caitlin Cavannaugh at caitlin@purplerosetheatre.org or 734.210.1415.

Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

Incident #: 25-4993

Date: December 31, 2025

Location: S. Main Street X I-94

Time: 7:37 am

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol officers were dispatched to the 1600 block of S. Main Street for the report of a larceny from auto complaint. Upon arrival the officer met with the complainant who stated that he had parked his vehicle in the parking lot on December 28th and when he returned to the vehicle on December 31st, he discovered that the toolbox located in the bed of his truck, had been stolen along with a large amount of tools that had been locked and secured in the toolbox. The complainant stated that the toolbox had been secured to the bed of the truck by a large padlock. The officer inspected the vehicle and found that the padlock had been cut by the suspect(s), allowing the toolbox and its contents to be removed from the bed of the truck. The incident was turned over to the investigator's office for additional investigation. At the time of the report there was no information available on the identity of the suspect.

Incident #: 26-0000049

Date: January 5, 2026

Location: 700 block of S. Main Street

Time: 11:04 am

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol a complainant came into the Chelsea Police Department lobby to report an identity theft complaint. Upon arrival the investigator met with the complainant who stated that she had recently discovered that her personal identifying information had been used to open a new cellular service account and purchase a new device. The complainant stated that she contacted the cellular service provider and reported the account as fraudulent. The complainant was able to provide a cell phone number for the suspect. The investigator attempted to make contact with cell phone number provided, however, there was no answer, so a voicemail requesting a call back was left. The case was closed pending additional information leading to the identity of the suspect(s).