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Laurie catches her breath after presumably putting the rabid dog down is terrifying. Try and watch that scene and not scream at the screen. I feel that films less than 50 years old shouldn't be redone anyway, but that's just me.

True, as a kid I laughed at "The Wolfman" and "Frankenstein,"

favorites from a generation or two before my time. What those classic horror staples lacked in big-budget special effects, they made up for with spine-tingling suspense and clever character machinations. The monster at the heart of "Frankenstein" is ultimately a metaphor for many outsiders on society's fringes and what it lacks in social graces it makes up for



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## Open Garden Day

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

**WHERE:** Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas

**COST:** Free

**MORE INFO:** 754-6477

in moments of sensitivity that betray the notion it's a monster.

On Friday, you can catch another classic in the form of Lon Chaney's "The Phantom of the Opera" at Ironstone Vineyards. Chaney's crowning achievement wasn't really dubbed a "horror film" early on; it was simply scary. With the tale of a lovesick musician at its heart, there's plenty of emotion roiling under its surface and as a silent film,

audiences have to rely on the person supplying the accompaniment, not the soundtrack, for the frights to hit their marks. I'm sure Dave Moreno will perfectly perform along with the actors who appear in this film; he studies films very closely and tries to match his performances on the Alhambra Theatre pipe organ to every nuance and change found in the films he plays along with.

Hopefully, fewer frights will be

## It's almost the Great Pumpkin

**B**igger is better. Well, at least when it comes to pumpkins and vegetables. A favorite film of mine to watch this time of the year is "Wallace and Gromit: Curse of the Were-Rabbit." Many of you many prefer the horror and suspense films of Halloween lore that I simply cannot handle. You'll just have to put up with my friendly, humorous films for now.

In "Wallace and Gromit," a mysterious creature with a huge appetite begins eating everyone's prized

vegetables right before the village festival, which will, of course, include contests for the largest vegetables. Let's hope no one sneaks into the Mother Lode's gardens this month as farmers and gardeners get ready for Saturday's Giant Pumpkin Contest.

Held at Hurst Ranch outside Jamestown, the contest coincides with the final weekend of Hurst Ranch's October Harvest Festival. The festival, which is open from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, costs \$7 and includes train rides, a straw maze, an animal farm and a pumpkin giveaway for attendees, but the pumpkin contest is free to attend and participate in. Weigh-ins for the contest start at 11 a.m. Saturday and the awards ceremony is at 12:30 p.m. Categories include heaviest pumpkin and vegetable, most beautiful pumpkin and veg-



Courtesy photo

Judie Kavanaugh won heaviest pumpkin at last year's Great Pumpkin Contest.

found Saturday at the Demonstration Garden at the Government Center in San Andreas as the Calaveras County Master Gardeners open up the space and get their winter plans moving. Experts will discuss the preparation and planting of your winter garden and those same experts are always happy to answer your questions. There's a lot to learn at the garden and if you'd maybe like to help as a Master Gardener, be sure to ask about the training that starts in the New Year.

From horror movies to the fear of dealing with gophers, it's a weekend before the frights arrive. Be sure to be careful next week as the little ghouls gather to grab their goodies and enjoy the festivities found around every corner – unless Michael's waiting around that corner.

Contact Mike Taylor at [mtaylor@sierralodestar.com](mailto:mtaylor@sierralodestar.com).

## Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



etable, most unusual pumpkin and vegetable and heaviest pumpkin. All entries must have been grown in Tuolumne County. Participants can find information and entry forms at [tcrd.org](http://tcrd.org).

"Giant pumpkins are so out of the ordinary and it's exciting to see if you can grow a larger pumpkin each year," said Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District Manager Lindsay Rosasco, who helped plan the contest and is also a member of the Young Farmers and Ranchers. "It's a pretty serious hobby for some people. There are large contests across the U.S. and Canada. The largest contest close to

Continued on next page

## Hurst Ranch Harvest Festival

**WHEN:** 1 to 5:30 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

**WHERE:** Hurst Ranch, 17415 Highway 108, Jamestown

**COST:** \$7      **MORE INFO:** 984-4040

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Sonora is in Half Moon Bay and draws in 1,000-plus pound pumpkins each year.”

Rosasco said her family owns a cattle ranch in Jamestown and has had a garden every year for as long as she can remember. Her memories also include an unlimited supply of garden-fresh tomatoes for snacking and watching her younger sister, Rachel, win the prize for most unusual pumpkin last year.

“Growing plants is a great way for kids to connect with the science classes they have in school in a hands-on way,” Rosasco said. “It’s a fun way for them to show off their hard work after a summer of taking care of their vegetables.”

Rosasco said the contest makes a wonderful way for both young and old to show off their best and most unusual vegetables. Last year, 12 pumpkins were weighed and the heaviest tipped the scale at 194 pounds, but not all the pumpkins came from farmers. According to Rosasco, community members who enjoy gardening and just wanted to raise giant pumpkins also participated.

“Anyone who has a pumpkin or vegetable they want to show off or are proud of should definitely bring it to the contest,” she said. “It’s fun to see how your produce compares

## Great Pumpkin Contest

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Saturday

**WHERE:** Hurst Ranch,  
17415 Highway 108, outside Jamestown

**COST:** Free

**MORE INFO:** [tcrd.org](http://tcrd.org) or call Lindsay at 984-0500

to others grown here. I enjoy seeing the kids who bring their pumpkins. They are so excited to see how much they weigh!”

Send your Tuolumne County events to Harmony Wheeler at [hwheeler@sieralodestar.com](mailto:hwheeler@sieralodestar.com) and [mtaylor@sieralodestar.com](mailto:mtaylor@sieralodestar.com).

## The salmon hold off, but tournneys loom

**S**almon fishing is a big sport in California. Many might think of kokanee when I say “salmon,” but while kokanee are easily the No. 1 fish anglers are after at many area reservoirs, there is some much larger salmon fishing offered in the Mother Lode below the dam at Camanche Reservoir in the Calaveras River. These are Chinook salmon, also referred to as king salmon.

By far the most memorable battles between anglers and Chinooks take place in the waters of the San Joaquin Delta. Since the Delta’s chain of rivers runs within easy driving distance for most of us, I decided to make a few trips to the Delta to gather a bit of knowledge.

I drove to Stockton and met Vern Smith and his dad, Ron Smith, for a morning of salmon fishing. The week before, Vern was in Jackson and had told me that the bite

William Heinselman  
**Solid Gold Fishing**



was hot recently and he and his dad caught more than 10 fish.

Upon arrival at Vern’s house, he told me that the rather unusual hot weather had turned off the bite. Nevertheless, at 6 a.m. we headed for Rio Vista to the River Front Trailer Park where Ron has his boat moored at a quaint boat slip owned by the park.

Within minutes we were on the mighty Sacramento River and all the sights were

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<b>10 lb. bag Chicken-Leg Quarters</b> <p>55¢ lb.</p>	<b>Bar-S - 12 oz. Package All Meat Hot Dogs</b> <p>68¢ ea.</p>	<b>Boneless Beef Untrimmed in-the-bag Tri-Tip Roast</b> <p>\$2.48 lb. \$3.88 lb.</p>	<b>DELI SAVINGS</b> Bar-S - 3 lb. Corn Dogs or Smoked Sausage <p>2.5 lb. \$3.38 ea.</p>
<b>20-29.5 oz. Selected Varieties Tombstone Pizza</b> <p>\$2.45 ea.</p>	<b>Selected Varieties Banquet Meals</b> <p>85¢ ea.</p>	<b>Stouffers 90-96 oz. Selected Varieties Lasagna</b> <p>\$8.85 ea.</p>	
<b>Western Family - 64-oz. Apple Juice</b> <p>\$1.45 ea. Limit 6</p>	<b>Nabisco - 11-3-18 oz. Selected Varieties Oreo Cookies</b> <p>\$2.45 ea.</p>	<b>12 oz. 24 Pack Diet Coke, Diet Coke or Sprite</b> <p>\$5.95 +CRV ea. Limit 2</p>	

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