# Pumpkin patch visits never disappoint

**By Brianna Wallen**
**Editor-in-Chief**

With just one week left in October, it is the perfect time to squeeze in one last fall activity: visiting a pumpkin patch.

From festive photo ops to seasonal drinks, Foster Farm Pumpkin Patch in South Windsor offered everything I needed to get into the autumn spirit.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, I visited with my significant other, Tyvonn Thompson, and his two nieces for a day filled with pumpkins, family fun and memories worth fall-ing for.

As someone who loves a good picture, I was excited to see all the creative backdrops scattered throughout the farm.

One of my favorites was a little hollow pumpkin house that looked straight out of a fall storybook.

There were also tractors decorated with pumpkins and adorable signs with cutouts that let visitors pose as farmers.

With fall being my favorite season, it is only fitting that I took some cute photos at the pumpkin patch.

If you are looking for a place to get those picture-perfect fall shots, this pumpkin patch has plenty of options.

There were also plenty of pumpkins to choose from, whether visitors wanted to bring one home or use them as props for even more pictures.

Beyond the photo ops, the farm offered several activities to make the visit even more enjoyable. We took a fun hayride and checked out the corn maze.

During the maze, we spent the whole time being nervous about actually getting lost in it.

We were not trying to spend the rest of our Saturday wandering through corn, so we kept the possibility of a corn-fusing adventure in mind.

Families with younger children also had plenty to explore. The outdoor play area featured a corn pit, two play sets and a bounce pad.

One of the highlights of my visit was seeing the animals. We spotted two adorable alpacas, fluffy sheep and goats.

Of course, no fall outing is complete without something good to eat and drink.

Foster Farm featured several food trucks, including Kona Ice and Deb's Cafe. I ended up getting a chicken caesar wrap from Deb's Cafe, which was the same size as my head.

My favorite was Fizzology, which served a variety of drinks ranging from warm maple cider to green apple lemonade.

With seasonal flavors and refreshing options, it was the perfect place to sip into the fall spirit.

However, my otherwise wonderful visit came with one small complaint: the bees.

It felt like a bee was hovering over my head for about 85% of the time I was there. Despite the pesky visitors, the bees could not put a sting in my overall experience.

Between the charming photo spots, entertaining activities, adorable animals and delicious drinks, Foster Farm Pumpkin Patch made for a memorable fall outing.

With October coming to a close, I would recommend adding a pumpkin patch visit to your weekend to-do list.

Whether you are planning a family outing with a little pumpkin or a date with your significant pumpkin, Foster Farm offers plenty of ways to enjoy the season.

Just bring your camera, prepare for a few pumpkin puns and watch out for the bees.



PHOTOS | BRIANNA WALLEN

**Journalism major Brianna Wallen, a senior, posing in front of pumpkins.**



**Foster Farm Pumpkin Patch in South Windsor on Saturday, Oct. 24.**

# Fright Fest's haunted maze brings spooky vibes

**By Valentina Toro**
**Managing Editor**

I have always loved Halloween. The horror movies, costumes, spooky decorations and everything that comes with the season have always been exciting to me.

But somehow, I had never experienced a haunted maze until I visited Six Flags Great Adventure's Fright Fest in Jackson, New Jersey.

And now I am wondering why I waited so long.

As someone who looks forward to Halloween every year, I had high expectations for Fright Fest. I wanted to be scared, have fun and experience something different from my usual Halloween traditions.

Thankfully, the event delivered exactly what I was hoping for.

The haunted mazes were easily the highlight of my visit.

Walking into a dark attraction knowing someone is waiting to scare you, but having absolutely no idea when it will happen, is an experience of its own.

I thought I was prepared. I quickly realized I was not.

I experienced four haunted mazes: Jason: Blood Reign, Final Destination: Death's Playground, The Conjuring Universe and Army of the Dead.

Each maze brought something different to the experience, making it difficult to predict what was coming next.

Of all four, The Conjuring Universe was easily my favorite.

There is something about stepping into an attraction inspired by a horror franchise that makes the experience even more exciting.

Instead of watching frightening scenes unfold on a screen, I was suddenly walking through an environment designed to bring that fear to life.

The suspense alone was enough to keep me entertained.

Every corner made me wonder what was waiting ahead and even when I expected a scare, I could never be completely prepared for it.

Jason Universe, Final Destination and Army of the Dead also contributed to the excitement.

I particularly appreciated how the different horror themes gave each attraction its own identity rather than making the experience feel repetitive.

As someone who enjoys horror movies, I loved having the opportunity to experience that atmosphere beyond a screen.

It is one thing to watch characters face terrifying situations, but walking through a haunted maze makes you feel much closer to the action.

Another aspect I enjoyed was the Halloween atmosphere throughout the park.

Fright Fest offered more than the usual amusement park experience, giving visitors another reason to enjoy Six Flags during the fall

I also believe that part of the fun comes from experiencing these attractions with other people. Getting scared is entertaining, but laughing about everyone's reactions afterward makes the memories even better.

What surprised me the most was how much I wanted to keep going through the mazes.

Rather than feeling relieved when an attraction ended, I was already excited about the next one.

For my first haunted maze experience, Fright Fest exceeded my expectations.

It combined everything I love about Halloween with something I had never tried before.

I would absolutely return, especially for The Conjuring Universe.

After years of enjoying Halloween through movies and traditions, I finally found another way to celebrate my favorite season.

And next time, I will be ready for the scares.

Or at least I will try.



PHOTO | VALENTINA TORO

**Six Flags Great Adventure's Fright Fest in Jackson, New Jersey on Oct. 17.**

# 'Primetime' is a confusing portrayal

**By Noah Nunez**
**General Reporter**

I would ask that you take a seat, but that feels a little inappropriate given the context of "Primetime."

I never grew up watching "To Catch a Predator;" I was too busy being a year old to learn about the dangers of child predation.

Most of my exposure to Chris Hansen's PSA/glorification of the mentally ill was through pop culture references parodying Hansen's mannerisms on the show.

What I expected going into "Primetime" was the "darker side" of the general story we all know, painting Hansen as some weirdo who screams, and some fun acting by Robert Pattinson.

What I got was a neo-noir deep dive into the psychology of celebrities, TV executives and news watchers during the mid 2000s.

And it is that last part that I found the most interesting.

References to shows like "Joey" and "My Name Is Earl" are one thing, but having "Lost" be this monolithic figure of TV that Hansen wishes to climb is such a fascinating choice for placing the viewer in the past.

It may be obvious to place the viewer in the past in what is a period piece, but it really holds a mirror to the differences in how we consume news and why "To Catch a Predator" took off.

There had been nothing like the show for the audiences of 2006, and little to nothing was known about online safety by the masses.

Getting the viewer to feel as lost and confused by the changing times of the internet and news as people in the mid-2000s would have is what makes watching this movie feel like the show.

But there is another layer to "Primetime's" story that makes its setting all the more important. It is based on a real person.

The film follows a real-life actual human being who is still alive and breathing, with current and real ties to Hollywood and cinema, and a family that lived through the events of the story with him: Hansen.

And I will be honest; it is gross.

It is uncomfortable seeing a name and likeness be connected to gross representations of the real-life work that occurred not that long ago.

It is uncomfortable knowing Hansen is not happy with his portrayal in the movie, and it is strange to think that people are just okay with it.

Now do I care that the multimillionaire Hansen is not happy with his portrayal? No, considering that the film is so clearly fictionalized that his appearance comes off more as a representation of the greed for fame, but it still lingers throughout.

And it creates this weird dilemma the movie attempts to call out but is engaging with itself.

**For more on this story visit thesouthernnews.org**


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