

On the Calendar



1. Old timey music fills the Crystal Bay Casino Crown Room on Thursday with the Hackensaw Boys. The show is free.



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2. Variant Soul — Jason Sherman, Lance A. Little, Fuzzy John Oxendine and Leroy Hoornbeck play Friday on the North Shore and Saturday on the South Shore. Sherman and Oxendine formerly played in Ten Cent Lure.

3. Chakrapani Singh has moved from India to the United States. He performs Saturday at the Serendipity Yoga Center for Health and Wellbeing.



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THURSDAY, OCT. 4

Pick this show with Hackensaw Boys string band

With feet firmly planted in the old-time song tradition, hands soiled by the dirt of rock n' roll and eyes fixed steadily on the future of real country music, the Hackensaw Boys will bring their tunes to the Crown Room on Thursday.

Everyone in the group — comprised of Ward Harrison, strings and thumb picks; Ben Townsend, strings and resonators; Ferd Moyses, strings and horsehair; Brian Gorby, traps and sticks; and David Sickmen, strings and improvised straps — sings a bit of lead and a bit of harmony. Instrumentation includes banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, harmonica, upright bass, charismo (a home-made tin can contraption) and the occasional trap kit.

The band originated in Charlottesville, Va., but now the members are spread throughout Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and California. It has toured for more than a decade, putting on shows with bands such as the Flaming Lips, Cracker, Modest Mouse, Camper Van Beethoven, the Detroit Cobras, Cake, Railroad Earth, Cheap Trick and De La Soul.

The group's latest efforts, "The Old Sound of Music, Vol. 1" and "The Old Sound of Music, Vol. 2," deliver original material that draws upon the songwriting talents of its members. These six-song collections are the result of recording sessions held at the decaying but comfortable Sound of Music studios on Broad Street in Richmond, Va., before it moved to its new location. The recordings were mastered by Grammy-winner Charlie Pilzer at Airshow Mastering in Takoma Park, Md. As with the group's previous album, "Look Out" (Netzwerk Records, 2007), all songs were engineered by Library of Congress archival audio restoration specialist and all-around good guy Bryan Hoffa.

Who: Hackensaw Boys
Location: Crown Room
Date: Thursday, Oct. 4
Time: 9 p.m.
Cost: Free

FRI-SAT, OCT. 5-6

Fuzzy John and Jason citified nowadays, have brand, new band

Welcome back Fuzzy John Oxendine and Jason Sherman. The former members of the South Shore band Ten Cent Lure now live in Santa Cruz and they have a new group, Variant Soul.

With a sound like a psychedelic Black Crowes, Variant Soul will play both sides of the lake: Friday, Oct. 5, in the Tahoe City's Sawtooth Ridge Cafe and Saturday, Oct. 6, in the Himmel Haus, which is the former Christiana Inn on Saddle Road in South Lake Tahoe.

Oxendine has played with Bay Area bands since the 1960s. He was in Moby Grape and played with Bill Champlin and Jerry Miller and members of the Doobie Brothers.

Variant Soul formed about eight months ago. "We really enjoy just playing and it fell together," Oxendine said. "We've been playing around Santa Cruz but now we're taking the next step and going out. We're ready to get out and do some fun with other people."

The band has a self-titled, seven-track CD. The other members are saxophonist Andrew Beal, harp player Lance A. "Mr. Pequeno" Little and bassist Leroy "Rick" Hoornbeck. Keyboardist Greg Brown will not make the trip due to a work conflict.

Himmel Haus serves contemporary German cuisine and owner Zak Latzka has music at least once a week. Latzka said his goal is to have live music every night.

Oxendine predicted a good turnout. "I'm thinking there is going to be a lot of people because it's such a big weekend with the Oktoberfest over at Camp Richardson and a food festival (at Harrah's Lake Tahoe)," he said. "So when they're done with that and they want to dance off some of that food and beer come over to the Himmel Haus and have some more."

Two shows

Who: Variant Soul
 ■ 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5 in the Sawtooth Ridge Cafe, Tahoe City
 ■ 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6 in the Himmel Haus (former Christiana Inn) 3819 Saddle Road, South Lake Tahoe
Cover: Both shows are free

SATURDAY, OCT. 6

Indian kahchapi veena player performs at yoga center

A major artist from India will perform Saturday, Oct. 6, in the Serendipity Yoga Center for Health and Wellbeing at Incline Village.

Chakrapani Singh play an Indian slide guitar called a kahchapi veena. He first Tahoe appearance was at July's Sierra Nevada Classical Guitar Festival.

"He is one of the top musicians from India ever to work in the USA," said Larry Aynesmith of Lakeshine, LLC.

Singh will share his journeys through a gamut of emotions that reveal truth, beauty, and the perfection of the eternal divine that is expressed through music, press materials state. Singh is truly a rare instrumentalist with a unique repertoire ranging from traditional, classical compositions on the Indian slide guitar to his innovative renditions on the kahchapi veena.

The performance is at 7 p.m. but organizers recommend arriving 15 to 20 minutes early for the limited seating. Blankets and pillows are advised.

Please arrive 15 to 20 minutes in advance of the start time of 7pm for best seating. Also, since we have limited chairs, be sure to bring a pillow or blanket to sit on.

Tickets are \$15. Children 6 and under are free. The yoga center is at 797 Southwood Blvd. Bldg. 2 Suite 1 in Incline Village.