



# “Whitepine Whispers”

News of Whitepine Grange #102

9 Faro Lane, Trout Creek, MT 59874

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December 2023

## Santa visits Whitepine Grange for photos

Once again, Santa visited the Grange for Christmas photoa with kids, pets, and family members of all ages.

The afternoon was set aside for this specific activity, and the photos were offered at no charge as a community service of the Grange.

Turnout was low, despite the fact that the photos were free and of professional quality. Nonetheless, Mr. and Mrs. Santa (Ron and Linda Weygint) were welcoming of all participants from age 3 to age 90.

Thank you, Ron and Linda, for contributing your time to the community and Grange for so many years!



## Honey “Buzz-aar” launches an annual tradition

The Grange’s “Local Honey Bazaar” held in November will become a welcomed annual affair, based on the exceptional turnout for the event. Honey producers came from throughout the region to offer their wares, and buyers were plentiful. Next year’s “Honey BUZZ-aar” will be Nov. 2, 2024. Mark it on your calendar now, as you won’t want to miss this unique one-day event!



Above: Nancy Fields shares samples of her creamed lemon honey with eager buyers.

Left: “Bee Barf” from Bob’s Montana Bees in Thompson Falls was a huge hit.

JUST PUT IT AWAY!!

*From the Grangemaster:*

# Nothing wrong with boredom

Last month Melissa Porcaro, a pediatric occupational therapist, presented an evening class at Whitepine Grange. The topic: childhood screen addiction. It's a real and dangerous thing. It's as big a threat to our society as smoking, alcohol addiction or substance abuse. The effects on our bodies and brains are every bit as numerous and devastating.

And yet most of us are in denial., like alcoholics who have convinced themselves they're only "social drinkers" who can quit any time they want.

Did you know DENIAL is one of the symptoms of addiction? Can you put your phone or tablet away for six hours without stressing a bit? Be honest.

I remember when only doctors had pagers (forerunners of phones) and they used them to keep tabs on life-and-death situations involving patients. When did it become a life-and death situation to text your spouse to see what he/she wants for dinner tonight? Or for teenagers to mentally check out of a family conversation while they text each other with phones in their laps? What is happening to us?

Wearing masks through a pandemic was bad enough. Now we all wear our phones on our faces instead. We are losing the ability to communicate face to face, to read and interpret facial expressions, and to concentrate on one thing for more than a few seconds. Our devices are training our brains to stay hyperactive , our consideration for others to go out the window, and our situational awareness to diminish. Now, this CAN be life threatening!

Not many people came to Porcaro's class, presumably because they didn't want to know what damaging effects their screen devices are having on them. But she, along with thousands of other professional family counselors and psychologists, will continue to beat the drum in an effort to stem this new epidemic.

What's the answer? Even if YOU are not screen addicted, how can you help others in your life who are? There's a helpful website called "Screenstrong." (<http://screenstrong.org>) that offers free help in dealing with these problems.

There's another method we should all adopt: STIGMATIZE the use of cell phones and screens in public. Remember when smoking in public was socially acceptable? It's not any more, thanks to campaigns, public awareness and education. Let's try the same approach to **ending excessive cell phone use in public**. Be nice, be polite, but use your imagination to get your point across to others whose faces are glued to phones when you're trying to have a conversation with them.

By cutting back in some aspects of our screen use, we will be role modeling for the young people who've grown up with phones in their cribs. Let's save ourselves in order to be better caretakers for those young kids who have never experienced boredom.

Our brains NEED to be bored once in a while. We all need time to sit quietly, build a snowman, watch the squirrels, and reconnect with our own brains instead of the artificial brains made in China.



Jan Manning, Grangemaster

## Whitepine Grange #102 Officers 2023

**President:**

Jan Manning

**Vice-President:**

Carolyn Nesbitt

**Secretary:**

Patty English

**Treasurer:**

Dona Pope

**Executive Committee:**

Gene Pope

Debbie Mason

Ruth Tucker

## Whitepine Grange December Schedule

*Dates and activities are subject to change.*

Monday, Dec. 4:	Functional Fitness, 10am
Monday, Dec. 4:	Kids' Tumbling, 4pm
Wednesday, Dec. 6:	Competition Obedience, 10:30am
Thursday, Dec. 7:	Functional Fitness, 10am
Thursday, Dec. 7;	Avalanche Awareness Class, 6pm
Sunday, Dec. 10:	Intermediate Agility, 2:30pm
Monday, Dec. 11:	Functional Fitness, 10am
Monday, Dec. 11:	Kids' Tumbling, 4pm
Tuesday, Dec. 12:	Executive Committee meeting, 2pm
Wednesday, Dec. 13:	Competition Obedience, 10:30am
Thursday, Dec. 14:	Functional Fitness, 10am
Saturday, Dec. 16:	Private Birthday Party
Sunday, Dec. 17:	Search & Rescue Party, 5pm
Monday, Dec. 18:	Functional Fitness, 10am
Monday, Dec. 18:	Kids' Tumbling, 4pm
Tuesday, Dec. 19:	GRANGE CHRISTMAS PARTY, 5pm
Wednesday, Dec. 20:	Competition Obedience Class, 10:30am
Thursday, Dec. 21:	Functional Fitness, 10am
Wednesday, Dec. 27:	Competition Obedience, 10:30am
Thursday, Dec. 28:	Functional Fitness, 10am
Sunday, Dec. 31:	Intermediate Agility, 2:30pm

### UPCOMING GRANGE EVENTS IN 2024

**Beginning Dog Agility** starts Sun., Jan. 7, 2pm

**Weaving Demonstration** by Sue Scott of Trout Creek: Tues., Jan. 23, 6:30

**Crafters' Stash Sale** on Sat., Feb. 10

**Two-night First Aid Certification Class** in February 5-6.

**2nd Annual Honey "Buzz-aar"** on Fri., Nov. 2

**4th Annual Cornucopia of Crafts** Sat., Nov. 9

**WATCH FOR MORE EVENTS TO  
BE ADDED TO THE CALENDAR IN  
COMING MONTHS!**

## Grange program can save you \$30/month in internet costs

The National Grange has partnered up with the FCC to offer a new program designed to reduce internet fees by up to \$30 a month for some rural residents.

The program is called the "Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). This federal program applies to any internet service provider. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched a new program designed to reduce internet fees for rural residents.

The program applies to any participating internet service provider, including BLACKFOOT.

ACP offers eligible low-income households discounts on the cost of their broadband service and certain devices. The FCC reimburses the service providers for awarding these discounts to customers.

You NEED NOT be a Grange member to qualify for this program.

It's free and easy to apply and get signed up.. **This is a legitimate government program!** Go to:

<https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/do-i-qualify/>

If you have questions, contact Whitepine Grange at [whitepinegrange@gmail.com](mailto:whitepinegrange@gmail.com)

## \$1,000 scholarships available for Class of '24 grads

**\$1,000**  
**Scholarships**

The Montana State Grange has voted to offer **two scholarships of \$1,000** each to qualified Grange members graduating from high school in 2024.

These scholarships can be used for **trade schools or colleges**.

Recipients must be **current members (individual or family) of a local Grange**. Whitepine Grange is a local Grange. Other

Granges in Sanders County include Thompson Falls Grange and Nyah (Hot Springs) Grange.

Applications must be complete, and **MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FEB. 25!**

The applications will be available on-line and by request this month.

Please contact [whitepinegrange@gmail.com](mailto:whitepinegrange@gmail.com) to receive an application. Become a Grange member, correctly fill out the application, and your chances of acceptance are *very good!*

## Please renew your Grange dues this month!!

**Grange membership dues are:**

**\$35 for Individuals**

**\$70 for Families**

Please read the mission statement on the right, and help us meet these common goals by renewing your membership today!

### GRANGE MISSION STATEMENT

The Grange strengthens individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agricultural awareness.



**PayPal**

Pay with Paypal. Here's the link:

<https://paypal.me/membersWPG102>

OR...mail your check to Whitepine Grange, P.O. Box 1313, Trout Creek, MT 59874

# **AVALANCHE AWARENESS CLASS**

**Dec. 7, 6pm**

**at WHITEPINE GRANGE**

**Hwy 200 and Faro Lane, near MM38**

**Free to the public!**

**Sponsored by**

**Friends of**


**Scotchman Peaks Wilderness**

**and**

**Idaho Panhandle**

**Avalanche Center**





*You and your family are  
Cordially Invited!*

# Whitepine Grange CHRISTMAS Party

**Tues., Dec. 19, 5:30pm**

- Potluck at 5:30
- Short Meeting at 6:15
- “Honey” BINGO at 6:45

Come celebrate a terrific year  
with your family, friends and neighbors!

R.S.V.P. by December 15. Call 406-827-0102.

# Look here at the Grange's past year!!

## January:

Celebrated Whitepine Grange's 85th Anniversary with a fund-raising party for Trout Creek School libraries. (Raised \$800!) Hosted six dog-training classes a week and two exercise classes a week

## February:

Hosted kids' weekly tumbling classes, four dog-training classes a week, two kids' birthday parties, and two exercise classes a week. Held a fund-raising Mardi Gras party for Cancer Network. Hosted a craft and fabric exchange. Made major HVAC improvements.

## March:

Hosted three dog-training classes a week, kids' tumbling classes, a painting party, and one weekly exercise class. Hosted an outdoor photography class. Completed installation of a brand new floor. Installed a new front door.

## April

Hosted three dog-training classes per week, two exercise classes each week, and a yoga class. Did a two-mile highway litter cleanup.

## May

Contributed to the Noxon Senior High School class. Hosted six dog-training classes a week, a weekly yoga class and two exercise classes each week, and hosted a bear safety seminar.

## June

Launched a kids' summer recorder class, hosted three dog classes each week, held a Cajun dinner for fund-raising. Held the Annual Yard Sale.

## July

Hosted kids' summer recorder classes, held dog-training classes.

## August

Got a phone and WiFi at the Grange!!! Held dog training classes, contributed to Sanders County 4H.

## September

Hosted kids' tumbling classes, held three dog-training classes a week.

## October

Hosted kids' tumbling classes, two exercise classes a week, and four dog-training classes a week. Hosted a week-long sewing retreat, and sponsored a firearm safety class.

## November

Held two exercise classes a week, four dog-training classes a week. Hosted a Honey Bazaar. Hosted a Craft Bazaar. Held kids' tumbling classes. Held a class on child screen addiction.

## December

Hosted a Home Fire Safety class, an Avalanche Awareness class, three private parties. Hosted kids' tumbling classes and two dog-training classes a week. Contributed \$900 worth of Christmas gifts to a local family in need. Held the Grange Christmas Party.



*Whitepine Grange's membership continues to rise, and now you can see why! Thank you for being a part of this organization that supports...*

- **HOMETOWN VALUES**
- **FACE-TO-FACE RELATIONSHIPS**
- **CONTINUING EDUCATION**
- **NEIGHBORLY SUPPORT**
- **RURAL LIFESTYLE**

**See photos of our amazing year on pages 8, 9 and 10!**

# Photo Reflections of a Great Year at Whitepine Grange









# Join Whitepine Grange today!

For yourself, your family, your rural neighbors & community!

## MEMBERSHIP TYPES - Check Box

Individual Membership: \$35/year       Family Membership: \$70/year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
What are your hobbies? (so we can plan programs of interest to you and maybe utilize your expertise) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Family Memberships:

Spouse/Partner's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_  
Children:  
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Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
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### Seven winning reasons to join Whitepine Grange:

- Build a support network with your rural neighbors.
- Great monthly programs on topics of local interest.
  - Family friendly activities like potlucks, parties, dances and Bingo.
- Community service projects like highway cleanup, the dictionary program, Family & Friends shut-in outreach, and military care packages.
- Exercise classes for all ages.
- A gathering place for neighbors.
- Your membership dollars help pay for upgrades and maintenance for this historic building. Whitepine Grange was chartered in 1938. The building was constructed in 1961. In 2023 the Grange is still going strong! Join Whitepine Grange #102 and become part of its long, wonderful story!



Please make checks to "Whitepine Grange #102"  
Return this form, with payment, to any Whitepine Grange officer, or mail to:

Whitepine Grange #102  
PO Box 1313  
Trout Creek, MT 59874