



“Whitepine Whispers”

News of Whitepine Grange #102

9 Faro Lane, Trout Creek, MT 59874

Published by Friends of Whitepine Grange

March –April 2025

\$1,000 Scholarship Is Up for Grabs!!

Whitepine Grange wants to give a \$1,000 scholarship to a local 2025 high school senior to use for trade school or college this fall, but so far nobody seems to want it. To date, we have no applicants!

The deadline for applying is April 15.

The winning candidate must be a Whitepine Grange member, or have a member in the immediate family. (A membership, by the way, is \$35. Application for membership is on the last page of this newsletter.) He or she must have a trade school or college career path chosen that will in

some way relate to agriculture. Since “agriculture” touches just about all occupations in some way, this requirement covers a lot of bases, from farrier school to flying, from environmental studies to civil engineering.

The complete application packet for a Whitepine Grange scholarship can be found at the Whitepine Grange website: www.whitepinegrange.com. Go to the “About” page and scroll to the bottom of the page; you will find all the information in a downloadable form.

If you know someone who could use \$1,000 for further education in the fall, get them first to join Whitepine Grange—just fill out the form on page 8 and send it in with a check for \$35. Next, fill out the application and get it returned to the Grange by April 15.

If only one person does this and fills out the application with care, that person has a great chance of winning \$1,000 for school in the fall. It pays to join your local Grange!



Also in this issue:

- ***Fitness Presentation on March 25***
- ***Knitting class produces smiles***
- ***Stash Sale results***
- ***Movie Night: “Casablanca”***
- ***Dictionaries given to kids***
- ***Grant-writing Class March 29***

Note: Whitepine Grange will be closed to the public April 7-11 to accommodate a women’s sewing retreat. No classes will be held that week.

We need more trade school graduates!

By Jan Manning, Whitepine Grange president

If you've ever tried to find a licensed plumber or HVAC expert on short notice in Sanders County, you know the problem. We have a trade brain drain here, which leaves us groveling for the expensive option of importing these pros from Missoula and other far-away places.

Let's grow our own! It's time to push our young people (and even older unemployed people with currently unmarketable skills) toward trade schools. Consider these good reasons:

1. Enhanced job opportunities
2. Hands-on training
3. Fast track to graduation
4. High earning potential
5. Flexibility and cost effectiveness

There are nearly 10,000 trade schools within the United States, all of which offer various degree paths for students to choose from, such as welding, plumbing, HVAC, diesel technology, and more. Compared to a more traditional university degree, students are more likely to end up with a job lined up before graduation, spend less on tuition, and secure a quicker return on investment.

Trade school grads are more valued—and better compensated—than a four-year college grad who majors in something like gender studies, cannabis biology, or puppet arts!

With our new government administration putting more emphasis on U.S. production and decreasing dependence on global sources, the time is ripe for American youngsters to be learning skills that will help strengthen our country from within. Let's encourage our high school grads to discover trades that will pay us all dividends for life. The possibilities for successful, fulfilling careers are endless!



Carpenter **Farrier** Dental Assistant
 Court Reporter FLORAL DESIGNER
Gunsmith Home Health Aide
 Interior Designer IT Technician **Ironworker**
Locksmith Radiation therapist
AIRCRAFT MECHANIC Chef **Welder**
 Medical Assistant **Plumber**

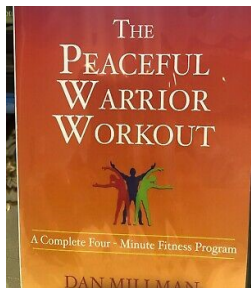
Travel Agent **Vet Assistant**
Electrician Elevator Installer
 Solar Panel Installer **BUTCHER**
FASHION DESIGNER HVACtechnician
Physical therapy aide
Boilermaker Paralegal
Diesel Technician Jeweler
 Cosmetologist *Landscaper*
HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

It's a good trade!

Fitness expert to demonstrate unique workout routine at next meeting

The Whitepine Grange monthly meeting on **Tues., March 25**, will feature a unique program presented by local fitness expert Francois Comunetti.

The public is invited to attend the program, free of charge, which will begin at 6:30pm.



Comunetti, who hails originally from Switzerland, is in his 60s and in the best shape of his life, he says. For the past 25 years he's been faithfully practicing a short physical fitness workout daily that he says helped him survive a severe horse accident at his home in Trout Creek in 2024.

The best thing about his workout routine, patterned after a program called "The Peaceful Warrior," is that anyone can do it...and it takes as little as **four minutes per day**. The exercises can be adapted for all ages and capabilities.

Now a full-time farmer in Trout Creek, Comunetti has a vast background of training and instructing in judo and other martial arts.

His program on March 25 will begin with a movie trailer of "Way of the Warrior," the story of athlete Dan Millman who recovered from a debilitating accident and went on to become a world class athlete by following the "Peaceful Warrior" program.

Comunetti aspires to get more men into a regular program that will help them enjoy life for years to come. He will be offering classes again at the Grange in the near future.

Whitepine Grange #102 Officers 2025

- President:** Jan Manning
- Vice-President:** Melissa Porcaro
- Secretary:** Patty English
- Treasurer:** Dona Pope

Executive Committee:

Kerri Cobb, John Haakenson, Tricia Cottrell

March-April 2025 Calendar

- Sun., March 16: Agility 2pm and 3:30pm
- Mon., March 17: Joy of Movement, 9am
- Tues., March 18: Senior Fitness Tests, 6pm
- Wed., March 19: Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
- Wed., March 19: Rally Practice, 1pm
- Thurs., March 20: Joy of Movement, 9am
- Thurs., March 20: Movie Night, 6:30pm
- Fri., March 21: Sew Day
- Sat., March 22: Tack Sale and Swap, 9 to 2
- Sun., March 23: Agility 2pm and 3:30pm
- Mon., March 24: Joy of Movement, 9am
- Tues., March 25: Grange meeting, 6:30pm
- Wed., March 26: Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
- Wed., March 26: Rally Practice, 1pm
- Thurs., March 27: Joy of Movement, 9am
- Sat., March 29: Grant Writing Class, 9am-noon
- Sun., March 30: Agility 2pm and 3:30pm
- Mon., March 31: Joy of Movement, 9am
- Tues., April 1: Doggy Boot Camp, Wk 1, 10am
- Wed., April 2: Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30
- Wed., April 2: Rally Practice, 1pm
- Thurs., April 3: Joy of Movement, 9am
- Fri., April 4: Sew Day
- Sat., April 5: Rally Advanced, 10am
- Sun., April 6: Agility at 2pm and 3:30pm
- Mon., April 7: Sewing retreat ALL WEEK (April 7-11) No classes.
- Sat., April 12: Rally Advanced, 10am
- Sun., April 13: Agility at 2pm and 3:30pm
- Mon., April 14: Joy of Movement, 9am
- Tues., April 15: Doggy Boot Camp, Wk 2, 10am
- Wed., April 16: Rough & Rowdy Dogs
- Wed., April 16: Rally Practice, 1pm
- Thurs., April 17: Joy of Movement, 9am
- Thurs, April 17: Movie Night 6:30 ("True Grit")
- Fri., April 18: Sew Day
- Sat., April 19: Rally Advanced 10am
- Sun., April 20: Agility 2pm and 3:30pm

Knitting class produces hats, scarves and smiles

Sue Scott, Grange member and fiber artist extraordinaire, held a "Learn to Knit" class at the Grange, and the results were outstanding.

For several weeks starting in January, Sue met with four students at the Grange on Monday afternoons, where she taught the neophyte knitters how to cast on, knit, purl, cast off, and follow a knitting pattern. Sue provided the materials and fostered her students' addiction to the sport of knitting. Now these eager new knitters are spending a lot of time away from their daily obligations and choosing to use that time creating hats, scarves and shawls of beautiful wool. As Sue predicted at the start of her class, "You're going to find yourselves saying to your husbands, 'Yes, honey, just let me finish this row first!'"

Sue has offered to teach another class at the Grange in the fall or winter, when weather ends outdoor summer activities and folks are ready to sit once again indoors by a warm fire.



Knitting student Trena Sanders (left) models the knit cap she completed in the class taught by Sue Scott (right) who's modeling her own neck warmer scarf.

Movie Night

At Whitepine Grange

Casablanca

Thurs., March 20, 6:30pm

FREE to Grange members,
guests, friends & supporters!



Whitepine Grange, Faro Lane and Hwy2 00 between
T. Falls and Trout Creek. Near MM38

Whitepine Grange will be **CLOSED** **TO THE PUBLIC**

April 7-11

for a Sewing Retreat.

"Rough & Rowdy" Drop-in Dog Classes

For people with young, under-socialized or reactive dogs who need a little informal training and professional guidance in a safe, fun, controlled atmosphere. Each group session about 90 minutes long. Come as many times as you want.

**Dogs must be at least 4 months old
and be immunized.**

\$5 per dog

**Wednesdays 10:30am
Whitepine Grange**

HOW TO WRITE GRANTS FOR YOUR NONPROFIT

*A 3-hour class on grant-finding and grant-writing
for your nonprofit organizations*

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 9AM TO NOON

LOCATION: WHITEPINE GRANGE

Instructor: Jan Manning, Whitepine Grange

You will learn:

- How to **set up a tax-exempt 501.c.3** organization.
- How to **find** small grants up to \$30,000 from corporations and foundations.
- How to **fill out** a grant application.

This class is for anyone who works for a nonprofit or is considering starting one up. It deals with modest grants available from foundations and corporations, It does NOT deal with grants from government entities.

Since 2020, Jan Manning's nonprofit "Friends of Whitepine Grange" has won 25 grants totaling nearly \$99,000 in grant money to be used for the improvements and programs of Whitepine Grange #102. These grants have varied in size from \$328 to \$12,500. Jan Manning is neither an attorney nor a tax specialist, but she will share her effective and successful methods with other "non-experts" in this class.

This presentation is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, financial, or other professional advice. You should consult with a qualified professional for advice tailored to your specific circumstances."

Registration: \$30 per person

Call 406-827-0102 to reserve a spot.

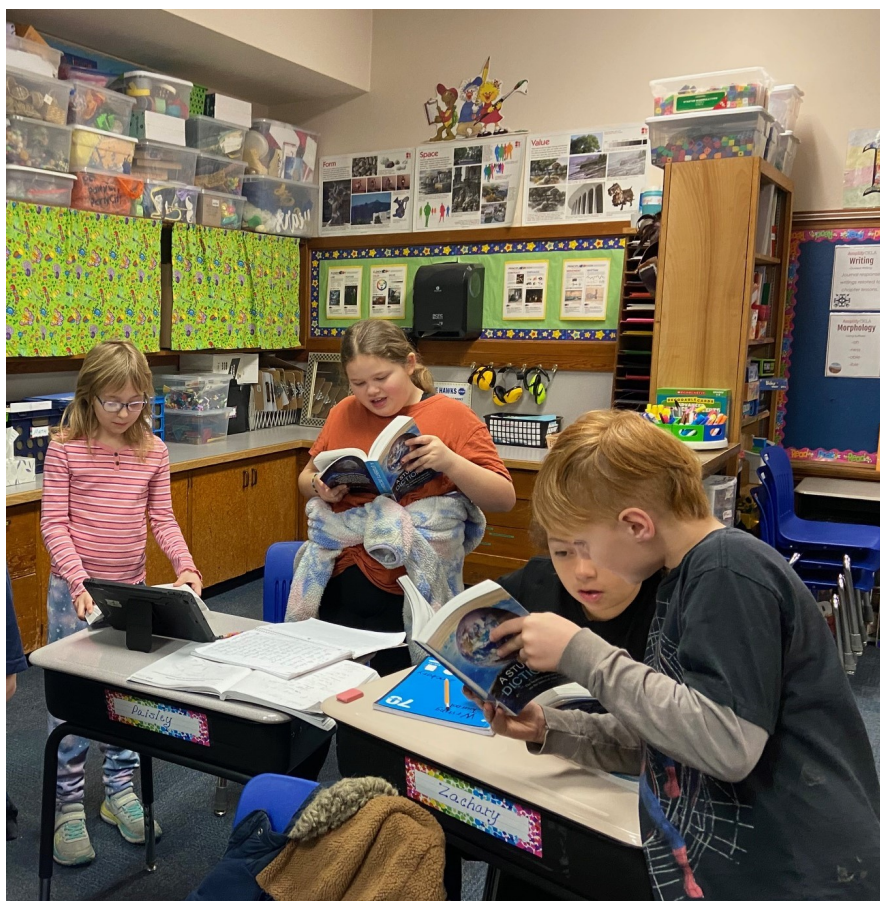
Crafty women clean out their supplies at Stash Sale #3



The Grange's third annual Stash Sale was a huge success again this year, as dozens of local crafters gathered to trade fabrics, beads, quilting patterns, paints and more on March 1 at Whitepine Grange. It was a great opportunity for crafters to stock up on supplies at "fire sale" prices.

Next year's Stash Sale is already scheduled for Sat., March 7, 2026, so mark your calendars!

Stash Sale #4
 March 7, 2026, 9am to 2pm
 Whitepine Grange



Dictionaries delight third-graders

Third-grade children at Noxon, Trout Creek and Thompson Falls schools all received youth dictionaries last month, presented by Whitepine Grange members Patty English, Beth Chestnut and Debbie Mason.

The "Words for Thirds" dictionary program is a long-standing tradition at the Grange. Each year Grange members across the country go into grade schools and place brand new dictionaries into the hands of eager third-graders.

Patty English has been part of this program for several years now. She says she enjoys these presentations so much because "the kids are so excited to get their dictionaries. It's fun to watch their faces!"

This year's edition includes lots of geography info, too as well as short bios on all the U.S. Presidents.

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:

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Date of Birth ____/____/____

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