



"Whitepine Whispers"

News of Whitepine Grange #102

9 Faro Lane, Trout Creek, MT 59874

Published by Friends of Whitepine Grange

December 2025

Holiday magic is on the way!

It's Saturday morning, Nov. 29. You need a break! You've been cooking, cleaning, and caring for family and guests since last Wednesday night. Thursday was the Big Meal. Friday you went shopping for deals. and ate leftovers for dinner.

By Saturday morning, you need a break! Pack up the kiddos and head over to Whitepine Grange for a hearty biscuits and gravy breakfast, and then sit them all down with Santa in our professional photo studio and have pictures taken for your Christmas letters.

No Grinches are allowed here! This event is all about making warm, magical memories that will last a lifetime.

Since this is also a fundraiser to help pay for Whitepine Grange's kitchen renovation, we ask a \$10 donation from adults

Photos will be emailed to you that day.

Breakfast is served from 9am to 11:30am, and Santa will be on hand from 9:30 to noon. See you Saturday morning, Nov. 29! Let the magic begin!



Gingerbread House Contest for Kids!

Whitepine Grange is holding its second annual "Gingerbread House Contest" for kids 4 to 12 years old on **Sat., Dec. 13, from noon to 2pm.**



Each child will be given a gingerbread house kit, complete with decorations and frosting. The kids supply the creativity! Prizes will be given in two age groups for the best houses.

This event is **FREE**, sponsored by Blackfoot Communications and Whitepine Grange. Pre-registration is absolutely necessary, as we have kits for just 20 children. Adults must accompany contestants.

To reserve a spot, call the Grange at **406-827-0102** and **leave a message.** We will call back the week of the event to confirm your child's reservation.

Christmas before the Grinch

By Jan Manning, Whitepine Grange president

I despise the Grinch.

As a Baby Boomer, I was spared the atrocities of this ugly green monster and its role in ruining an otherwise cozy, magical spirit of Christmas. To this day, I shudder when I see these green things representing a major role in modern Christmas scenes. Hobby Lobby has several aisles of seasonal décor solely devoted to Grinch. Sorry, I don't get it.

My childhood Christmases were colored red and evergreen, with large sprinklings of Minnesota snow. Santa was up there in status with the babe in the manger. Both were symbols of love and gentleness that defined the magical season. The sounds of Christmas were Gene Autry singing "Rudolph" and the Tabernacle Choir singing the "Hallelujah Chorus." During the day on Dec. 24, I'd accompany my dad, a match company executive, as he drove around town to his friends' homes, delivering bottles of "Christmas cheer." In return, the recipients would give him another bottle, box of candy, or a jar of pickled herring (his favorite). By the time we returned, my maternal grandparents would have arrived from the Twin Cities, weighed down with presents for all of us.



Ugh. Those flocked trees of 1964!

Christmas Eve was a dinner of sweet treats, followed by the opening of gifts, followed by a trip to the Lutheran church for a candlelight service while my Catholic grandparents stayed home to watch the Pope and Midnight Mass on TV. On Christmas morning, my siblings and I raced downstairs to see what Santa had put in our stockings. My most memorable gift: a pair of my very own water skis. At age 14 then, I was too big for Santa and the skis were too big for a stocking, but I was thrilled just the same.

The aromas of Christmas were French meat pie, shortbread and almond cookies, and lutefisk from my Norwegian grandma's kitchen.

The feeling of Christmas was one of exquisite warmth, safety, excitement and comfort. It started in mid-December with school programs and church choir concerts, climaxed Christmas Eve, and promptly experienced denouement after Christmas Day breakfast. Christmas was four-dimensional magic.

As a newlywed, I tried to recreate those feelings with the same traditions, but it didn't work. Over the past 40 years, my husband and I have formed and re-formed our own traditions, with little resemblance to what we experienced as children. Yet the magical feeling still overwhelms me when I hear Handel's Messiah or smell almond cookies (or even lutefisk!) I'm instantly transported to a time of harmony, security, and pure joy.

I wonder about today's families, living in such different times. How will the kiddos of today define Christmas memories 60 years from now? Will the Grinch be more important than Santa? Will Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas" drown out Bing's "White Christmas"? (I guess it already has.) Will "Ugly Sweater" parties replace Christmas concerts and caroling? Will sweatpants and t-shirts replace green velvet dresses and red velvet bows for little girls' Christmas eve attire? Again, I guess that's already happened. I just hope that somewhere in this hodgepodge of morphed traditions, the MAGIC that was Christmas "back then" remains as potent and heartwarming for today's youngsters. As adults, it's our responsibility to pass the everlasting spirit of Christmas on to younger generations. Make Christmas a magical time again. Make it mean something other than electronic gifts and gift cards. Teach your children that the true joy of Christmas is giving, so that at least once a year we can all feel warm and fuzzy—together.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Whitepine Grange, whatever your religious beliefs might be. Enjoy "peace at home and good will toward men," and then challenge yourself to keep that feeling all year long.



Pass on the magic . . .

Grange members brighten Christmas for local family in a rough patch

Once again this year, Whitepine Grange members have stepped up to help a local family in need.

The family, which remains anonymous to us, was chosen by Sanders County Coalition for Families. SCCF sent us a list of the family’s most immediate needs, along with a “wish list,” and Grange members had the pleasure of shopping for the gifts. Basic needs included bedding, household items and gas cards.

Grange members participating in the project were Kerri Cobb, Ruth and Will Tucker, Percy Plante, Jim Bittinger, Shelle Knutson, Don and Jan Manning, Kate and Francois Comunetti, and Monte and Carolyn Nesbitt.



The Whitepine Grange project this year was funded by donations from the participants, along with a grant from Town Pump.

Between these sources, we were able to purchase everything on the family’s Christmas list.

December Calendar

Sat., Nov. 29	Breakfast & Photos w/ Santa 9am to noon
Mon., Dec. 1	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., Dec. 2	BEMER sessions
Wed., Dec. 3	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Dec. 3	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Wed., Dec. 3	Clogging, 3pm
Thurs., Dec. 4	Joy of Movement, 9am
Fri., Dec. 5	Sew and Quilt Day
Mon., Dec. 8	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., Dec. 9	BEMER sessions
Wed., Dec. 10	NO Rough & Rowdy dogs
Wed., Dec. 10	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., Dec. 11	Joy of Movement, 9am
Sat., Dec. 13	Gingerbread House Contest
Mon., Dec. 15	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., Dec. 16	BEMER sessions
Tues., Dec. 16	GRANGE CHRISTMAS PARTY, 5pm
Wed., Dec. 17	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Dec. 17	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Wed., Dec. 17	Clogging, 3pm
Thurs., Dec. 18	GRANGE IS CLOSED
Fri., Dec. 19	GRANGE IS CLOSED
Sat., Dec. 20	GRANGE IS CLOSED
Mon., Dec. 22	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., Dec. 23	BEMER sessions
Wed, Dec. 24	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Mon., Dec. 29	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., Dec. 30	BEMER sessions
Wed., Dec. 31	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Dec. 31	Rally Dogs, 1pm

Save



Reminder:

Dues increase Jan. 1!

On Jan. 1, Whitepine Grange dues for individual members increase from \$35 to \$40. Renew prior to Jan. 31 and save \$5!

Dues for families remain the same: \$70 per year. Renew now and you’ll be good for all of 2026.

Whitepine Grange Officers 2025

- President:** Jan Manning
- Vice-President:** Melissa Porcaro
- Secretary:** Patty English
- Treasurer:** Dona Pope
- Executive Committee:**
Kerri Cobb, John Haakenson, Tricia Cottrell

Whitepine Grange is the community center in western Sanders County, serving you and your family, promoting neighborhood unity, fostering healthy growth in all forms from agriculture to family values. We are nonpartisan, non-denominational, and open to the public for most low-cost or no-cost events and activities.

How to join: Print the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it in with a check for \$35 (individuals) and \$70 (families). It’s that simple.

Note: Membership fees increase Jan. 1, so join or renew now!



Whitepine Grange #102

2025 in Review



Accomplishments & Programs 2025

- Fitness classes twice a week (ongoing)
- Dog training classes several times a week (ongoing)
- Movie Nights
- Fly-tying Class
- Sew Days twice a month
- Knitting Class
- Gun Class
- Women's Self Defense Class
- Senior Fitness Tests
- "Stash" Sale (February)
- Tack Sale (March)
- Physical Therapy Talks
- Sewing retreats
- Bingo (May)
- Bunco (August)
- Old-Fashioned Dance (October)
- Monthly Potlucks
- Surgical Seniors
- 3rd Annual Honey Bazaar (November)
- Craft bazaar (November)
- Clogging Classes
- Memorial Day Service, Whitepine Cemetery
- 4H Cloverbud Camp
- Zumba Classes
- Breakfast with Santa (November)

Community Service 2025

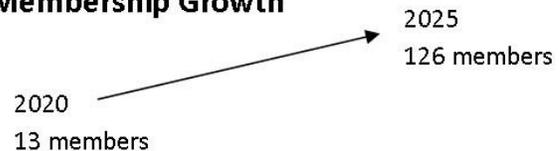
- Highway Cleanup (April)
- Free fitness classes (ongoing)
- Dictionaries for Third Graders (November)
- Adopt-A-Family for Christmas (December)
- Sponsorship of Memorial Day Service at Whitepine Cemetery
- Health/Wellness Programs
- Senior Fitness Testing
- Furnace repair for needy senior citizen
- Scholarships awarded to high school grads

Facility Improvements 2025

- Central Air Conditioning installed
- 12 x 16 storage addition constructed
- Basement improved & repurposed



Membership Growth



New and coming in 2026

- Gym Babies Class
- Quilting Class
- Pine Needle Baskets
- Kids' "Screen Free Fun" class
- Outdoor picnic pavilion
- Kitchen remodel
- Hosting MT State Grange Conference

Whitepine Grange #102

87 years old and growing strong!!

whitepinegrange.com (website)

whitepinegrange@gmail.com (email)

406-827-0102 (phone)

Saturday, Nov. 29, 9am to noon!



A fundraiser for
the Grange kitchen
renovation

Bring the kids in for a biscuits-and-gravy breakfast, and have your photos taken with Santa himself. Photos delivered to you digitally the same day, just in time for holiday cards. Breakfast donation of \$10. Kids 10 and under eat FREE!

A community service of Whitepine Grange,

Cardio Drumming: A new beat for Grange fitness classes

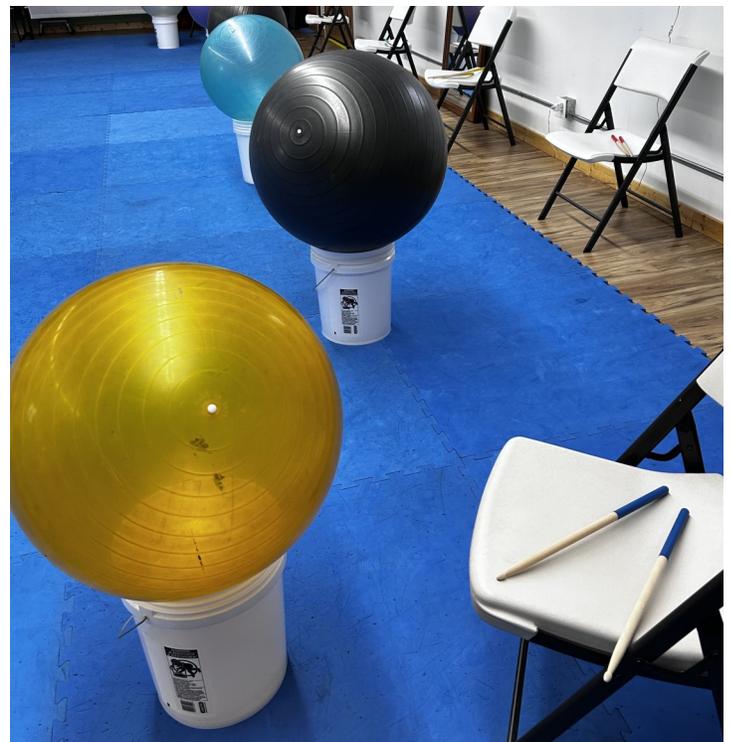
Professional drummers get a good workout while making their music! That's why we're introducing "cardio drumming" into our "Joy of Movement" fitness classes at the Grange on Mondays and Thursdays at 9am.

The drums, of course, are stability balls. The stands are 5-gallon buckets **donated by Stud's Hardware** in Thompson Falls. The music is mostly from the '60s to '90s.

Cardio drumming involves natural rhythm with a full body workout. It's just another addition to the fitness class' existing repertoire, which also includes cardio dancing, trampolines, step platforms and resistance bands.

Classes are free to Grange members and \$5 to nonmembers. All proceeds go back to the Grange.

Show up at 9am sharp on Mondays and Thursdays and be ready for a full hour of nonstop exercising **at your own pace**. Bring sneakers and a water bottle! The music is great, and the "high" you get is better than any medicine on the market.



Hey Kids!

“Build Your Own Gingerbread House”

FREE!

Contest

Sat., Dec. 13
noon to 2pm

Whitepine Grange
For kids ages 4-12



* All materials will be provided at no charge!

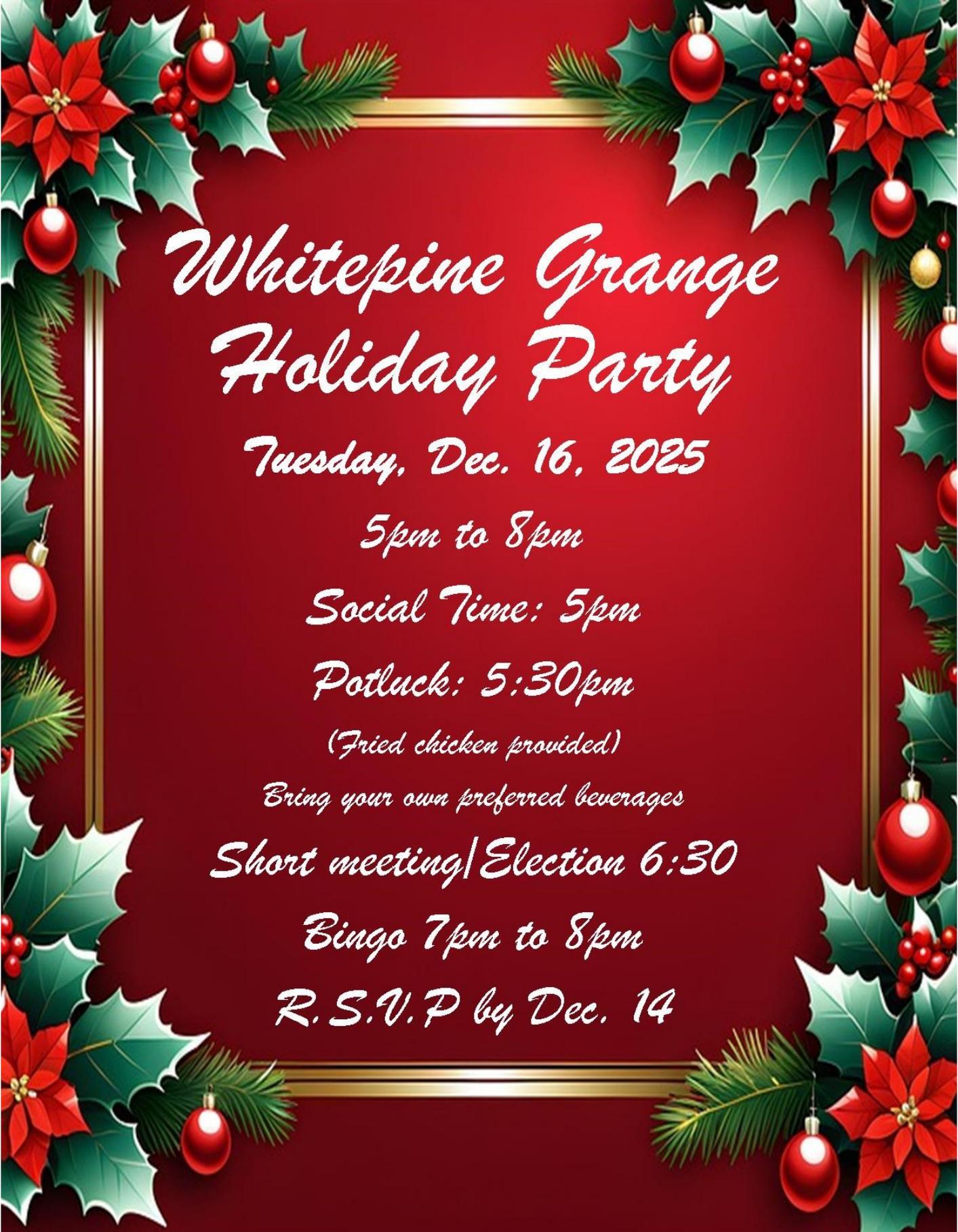
* Prizes will be given for the best houses in two age groups.

* Limit 20 kids...Pre-registration required!

Just Call **406-827-0102**.

*Adults must accompany contestants.

This FREE event is sponsored by Whitepine Grange and Blackfoot Communications.



*Whitepine Grange
Holiday Party*

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025

5pm to 8pm

Social Time: 5pm

Potluck: 5:30pm

(Fried chicken provided)

Bring your own preferred beverages

Short meeting/Election 6:30

Bingo 7pm to 8pm

R.S.V.P by Dec. 14

2025 Photo Memories from Whitepine Grange





**Grange
Dance**



Join Whitepine Grange today!

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

___ New Membership ___ Renewal

Individual Membership: \$40/year Family Membership: \$70/year

Name: _____ Veteran? _____

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 _____

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, kid-friendly activities, 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, and also for the many community programs designed for you, your family and neighbors. Whitepine Grange was chartered in 1938. In 2026 the Grange is still going strong! Join Whitepine Grange #102 and become part of its enduring and 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

For Family Memberships:

Spouse/Partner's Name _____ Veteran? _____

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 ____/____/____