



"Whitepine Whispers"

News of Whitepine Grange #102

9 Faro Lane, Trout Creek, MT 59874

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June 2026

May 30 = Memorial Day at Whitepine Cemetery

Attend, honor, educate

Once again, the traditional Memorial Day (originally called Decoration Day and designated to be observed on May 30 of every year) ceremony will be held at Whitepine Cemetery at 7pm on Saturday, May 30.

This special service is a long-standing tradition at Whitepine, coordinated by the Austin family, Whitepine Methodist Church, and now Whitepine Grange.

The cemetery is adorned with flags and crosses placed at the graves of all veterans who rest there. The task of placing them has been taken over by the Whitepine 4H group.

This year's ceremony will include an invocation from Pastor John Chamblin of Thompson Falls, a flag presentation by the American Legion, patriotic singing accompanied on keyboard by Rob Viens of Thompson Falls, thoughts about Memorial Day presented by Dian Hanna of Trout Creek, a roll call of every military veteran interred at Whitepine Cemetery, and the bugling of TAPS by Roland Goertzen of Trout Creek.

Held under cover with seating in the building at the rear of the cemetery, the service will begin promptly at 7pm and will last about an hour. The public is urged to attend this very moving and educational event. Non-disruptive children are encouraged to attend as well, so that they can learn the real meaning of Memorial Day.



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- Drum class opens up to adults
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- Reminder: *we now have AC!*

BE A MENTOR; LEAD BY EXAMPLE

By Jan Manning, Whitepine Grange president



Not having any children or younger siblings, my interaction with kids has been fairly limited for 73 years. I've taught some specialized small classes with receptive young students, but I've never had to teach them how (and why) to flush a toilet, hold a fork, or go beyond the bare minimum effort when doing an assigned chore. Fortunately I'm getting that valuable late-in-life experience now as I find myself teaching and mentoring more young children in activities at the Grange.

At the risk of sounding like a crabby old fogey, it's astounding to discover how many kids aren't getting basic training in social etiquette, personal accountability, and work initiative at home or apparently in public school. I've had kids leave the Grange restroom a mess, shirk their assigned duties, interrupt others' speech, and generally show a lack of consideration for other people and their surroundings. I think it's the last thing—showing a lack of consideration for others—that feeds the other negatives.



At what point in our society did this laissez-faire attitude take root? And how can we reinstall the importance of mutual respect for others?

The best teacher of all time (Jesus) led by example. He mentored and lived as a role model. Instead of lecturing people on what they should and shouldn't do, he interacted with them in a way that portrayed grace and respect. He taught with parables that explained WHY things should be done a certain way.

In my dog training classes, I've long believed my human students need to know the "why" as much or more than the "what" of how to work with their dogs. When we understand why we are doing things a certain way, the "how to" makes much more sense.

As adults, maybe the greatest gift we can give the younger generation is a good example of



manners, etiquette, respect and consideration. This summer, if you have occasion to hire a kid to do lawn work, clean a stable, or paint a fence, don't just tell them what to do. Don't just show them how. Explain WHY they should do it a certain way, and challenge them to make it even better than you could do it yourself. These are fantastic learning opportunities for the young person. Instead of raising your blood pressure in frustration, you'll turn it into a positive moment for yourself, too, as you take pride in knowing you are helping these youngsters toward a more fulfilling life.

Be a role model for a kid this summer

June Schedule at Whitepine Grange

Mon., June 1	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., June 2	Bemer sessions, 11am
Tues., June 2	Different Drummers, 4:15pm
Wed., June 3	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., June 3	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., June 4	Joy of Movement, 9am
Fri., June 5	Sewing/Quilting Day
Mon., June 8	Joy of Movement
Tues., June 9	Bemer sessions, 11am
Tues., June 9	Different Drummers 4:15pm
Wed., June 10	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., June 10	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., June 11	Joy of Movement, 9am
Thurs., June 11	Wildfire prevention, 6pm
Mon., June 15	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., June 16	Bemer sessions 11am
Tues., June 16	Bemer sessions, 11am
Tues., June 16	Different Drums, 4:15pm
Wed., June 17	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., June 17	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., June 18	Joy of Movement, 9am
Fri., June 19	Se/Quilt Day
Mon., June 22	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., June 23	Bemer sessions, 11am
Tues., June 23	Different Drummers, 4:15pm
Wed., June 24	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., June 24	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., June 25	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., June 29	Joy of Movement, 9am
Tues., June 30	Bemer sessions, 11am
Tues., June 30	Different Drummers, 4:15pm

Nygaard chosen for Whitepine Grange's 2026 scholarship



Solveig Nygaard

Solveig Nygaard, a senior at Thompson Falls High School, has been chosen as this year's recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Whitepine Grange Scholarship Committee.

Nygaard, a straight-A student who has participated and excelled in many extracurricular activities throughout her high school years, plans to attend college in Vermont where she will prepare for subsequent training in landscape architecture.

Applicants for the Whitepine Grange Scholarship are judged on a record of strong academics, experience in agricultural activities like 4H or FFA, and their desire to pursue an agriculture-related career. Also of key importance is the applicant's record of community service.

Serving on this year's scholarship committee were Grange members Dianne Hanna (chair), Carolyn Nesbitt, Beth Chestnut, Don Manning and Deb Oliver. We owe them many thanks for their time on this important project, and Whitepine Grange wishes all the best for our recipient, **Solveig Nygaard**.

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 \$40 (individuals) and \$70 (families).

It's that simple.

Movement is THE BEST Medicine!

Our one-hour "Joy of Movement" fitness classes will put JOY back into your life. Every Monday and Thursday, 9am. FREE to Grange members, \$5 to non-members.



Our pavilion nears completion—Now we need tables!

The new picnic pavilion at Whitepine Grange is almost ready for a housewarming party...or maybe just a joyous barbecue for all our Grange members and friends!

Kandel Construction broke ground on the project last month. This is a timber frame project, making it extremely sturdy and beautifully rustic. The footprint is 20' x 20'. The pavilion will be wired for electricity, making it possible to plug in crockpots and other small cooking-related appliances at outdoor potlucks.



Are you a picnic table expert?

Thanks to our nonprofit group, Friends of Whitepine Grange, we have almost enough grant money to cover the construction of the pavilion. What we do NOT have yet are funds for picnic tables. Can you help? Our options are many. We can temporarily start with traditional wooden picnic tables, but the long-term plan is to purchase heavy and durable metal picnic tables that will withstand years of year-round use. These tables can run up to \$1,500 each. Hence, we need your help! **Please consider donating to our picnic table fund**, and also share your knowledge and experience with various types/brands of picnic tables.



Wildfire Preparation Class June 11 at Whitepine Grange

Wildfire is a part of life in Montana. Are you ready to defend your space and your family?

Kaniksu Land Trust will present a class on Wildfire Preparation on Thursday, June 11, 6pm at Whitepine Grange. This is a free class, open to all.

Be ready for the inevitable threats of fire this summer. Attend this one-night class and bring your family.



Pine baskets turn forest debris into functional art



Instructor Jan Fryer shows Ruth Boyer (seated) how to select the best needles for her basket project.

By Jan Manning

It almost started by accident. Jan Fryer of Noxon was visiting in a friend's backyard that was coated with last year's pine needles. She began picking up some of the long, graceful needles and thoughtfully twirling in her fingers. Someone asked her, "What are you going to do with those?" She responded, "I think I'm going to make pine needle baskets out of them."

That was back in 2023, when Fryer didn't have a clue about making pine needle baskets. But the idea stuck with her, and she went out and bought a book on the subject.

Since then, Fryer has crafted and sold dozens of pine needle baskets that seem worthy of display in art museums and exclusive galleries from Scottsdale to Maui. The majority of her sales, however, go to locals who pick up her goods at craft bazaars around Sanders County.

Her baskets are works of functional art. Not only are they inviting to touch and caress, but they're also built to last for ages, withstand heavy use, and serve a purpose. "Too pretty to use" is a phrase Jan has often heard, but she scoffs at the notion. She wants her baskets to be used and enjoyed in everyday life.

Fryer's baskets are all different. "I never know what the finished product will be when I start making one," she says. Her ideas for stitching, beading, creating handles, or adding natural adornments will develop as she is starting each new piece. She never uses patterns, meaning that each finished basket is unique.

Earlier this year, Fryer taught a well received class on pine needle basketry through Noxon Adult Education. By popular demand, she is currently teaching another beginner class at Whitepine Grange.



Fryer demonstrates to Ella Larson how to prepare the needle ends for bunching together.

"I just love doing this," said Ruth Boyer, one of the Whitepine Grange students. "It's so relaxing and creative!" Others said they appreciate finding a creative way of using all those pine needles that litter their yards in spring and fall.

Asked how long it takes to make a medium sized basket from pine needles, Fryer estimated it at about 23 hours. "It depends on how intricate you make it," she explained. There are so many variables to consider, like the color of thread, the design at the bottom, or whether or not it will have handles. It's all part of the creative process."

For more information on the Whitepine Grange class, or to speak directly with Jan Fryer, call her at 509-784-1806.



Right: Fryer displays some of her favorite projects, along with those made by her students.

Adults' Musical Drum Class starting soon!

Want to learn an exciting new skill this summer? One that produces joy for others and healing relaxation for you? Join the Musical Drum Class beginning at Whitepine Grange on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm. Six-week class starts June 23. Space is limited

to five individuals. You do NOT need a music background to take this class!

Beautiful music is easy to create on these magical steel drums, even if you've never played a musical instrument in your life!

The steel drums will be provided for you by Whitepine Grange, compliments of grants from the **Montana Arts Council and the Headwaters Foundation of Missoula.**

Be part of the next great adventure in the world of creating meditative music. You will find this soothing, addictive, and just plain fun.

Fee for the six-week class is \$20 per person. Contact Jan Manning at 406-827-6385 or leave a message at Whitepine Grange, 406-827-0102.

Treat yourself to this wonderful activity, and treat your family and loved ones to music that sounds good **even if you hit the wrong notes!**



Expect a postcard on new free insurance benefit for Grangers

The National Grange has partnered with **American Income Life Insurance Company (AIL)** to offer free benefits to any current Grange member who wants them.

AIL is offering a **free \$4,000 accidental death/dismemberment** policy to Grange members. All Grangers will soon receive a postcard in the mail explaining this program. If you're interested in accepting this offer, simply sign the postcard and return to **AIL**. The company will then make ONE phone call back to you (without any sales tactics or gimmicks) to get the necessary information for their records. That info will include your name, address and birth date. You will be asked if you are interested in purchasing any other AIL supplements. If you decline, that's the end of it. No hard sales pitch, no further phone calls.



alzheimer's association
24/7 Helpline
800.272.3900

Whitepine Grange Officers 2026
President: Jan Manning
Vice-President: Kate Comunetti
Secretary: Patty English
Treasurer: Dona Pope
Executive Committee:
Kerri Cobb, John Haakenson, Juanita Triplett

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 ____/____/____