



"Whitepine Whispers"

News of Whitepine Grange #102

9 Faro Lane, Trout Creek, MT 59874

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October 2026

Whitepine initiates action to reform Service Dog Act

You've seen them in stores, hotels and even restaurants. They come in all sizes from tiny Chihuahuas to Great Danes. Some of them wear vests with "SERVICE DOG" embroidered on them. Some are well behaved. Some are not. It's easy to tell the real ones from the fakes if you know what to look for.

The problem lies with the proliferation of "fake" service dogs. A legitimate service dog, as defined by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is highly trained to perform a physical task that the disabled person can't do. True service dogs go through specialized training and can cost up to \$50,000. Qualified disabled individuals usually get on long waiting lists for such dogs, and costs are covered by a variety of nonprofit organizations and grants.

The ADA, however, does not regulate or enforce the training of service dogs. Nor does it require any official training, certification, or identifying vest. The wording of the ADA, which passed in 1990, is intentionally vague. Its intent was to reduce discrimination of disabled individuals by businesses and public entities. But its vague language, when it comes to service dogs, has left a loophole that many dog owners use to bring their pets into stores, theaters, public transportation, and other venues that are normally off-limits to pets.



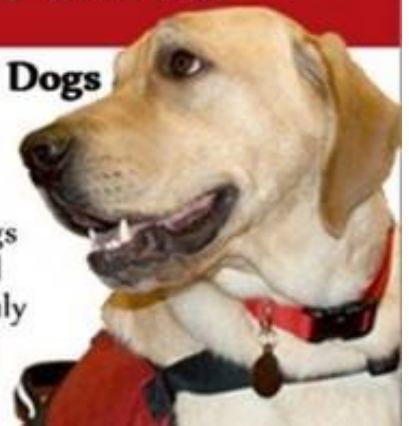
"He's a service dog. You have to let him in. My doctor gave me a letter. I need him for emotional support. I have papers. You can see he's wearing a vest. I can sue you for barring him from your business."

Any of these lines is usually a tip-off to the fact that the person's dog is NOT a true service dog. There are other signs: a dog who strains at the leash, who jumps up on people or objects, who tries to interact with another dog, who barks, who urinates or defecates where he shouldn't, or who appears nervous in any environment.

Please don't try to
pass your pet off as
a service animal

Fake Service Dogs

can hurt the
reputation and
acceptance of
valid service dogs
and the disabled
persons who truly
need those dogs
to assist them.



Business owners are afraid to question the dog's authenticity, fearing legal challenges of discrimination.

All in all, the ADA language relating to service dogs is in need of reform.

That's what Whitepine Grange members have decided. Earlier this month, we drafted a resolution to reform the ADA's policy on service dogs. We passed it out to our members, who almost unanimously approved it. Next, we presented it to the Montana State Grange officers and delegates during their annual conference. The Montana State Grange also passed to resolution, which will now be presented at the National Grange Convention later this fall. If passed, it will become policy of the National Grange.

The resolution from Whitepine Grange is posted on page 3. Please read it. That is **STEP ONE** of a call to action. **STEP TWO** is on page 4.

“Big Deal.”

By Jan Manning

Whitepine Grange president

Yes, indeed it was a big deal! I'm referring to Whitepine Grange's hosting of the three-day annual Montana State Grange Convention Oct. 1-3.

It was our turn. Generally, the State rotates the site of its annual meetings. Last year we met in Anaconda. Prior to that it was Corvallis and Kalispell. It was questionable whether or not we could accommodate the 40-odd folks who would attend from the eight other Granges in the state—not to mention the National Grange president and her small entourage from Washington, DC. And then there was the challenge of feeding them two or three meals a day, plus providing twice-daily coffee break goodies.

With the help of many Whitepine Grange members, we pulled it off and thoroughly impressed the delegation. I want to thank all who showed up to help in the kitchen and who prepared baked goods for the coffee breaks. And I have special thanks for those who showed up the previous Saturday for Grange Clean-Up Day. You were all AWESOME! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Now it's time to get back to doing what we Grangers do best: serving the community and networking neighbors. Our fall schedule of activities is full (see “Coming Events” on page 6), with the upcoming **HONEY BUZZAAR** (Nov. 7), the **CORNUCOPIA CRAFT BAZAAR** (Nov. 14), and the **SANTA BREAKFAST WITH PHOTOS** (Nov. 28).

We also have a special program on Thurs., Nov. 19, on **INTERNET THREATS TO CHILDREN**, presented by Sanders County Sheriff's Detective April Phillips, member of the Montana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The program is free to the public. More details on page 7.

Take pride, also, in the fact that Whitepine Grange is stepping up to the task of bringing reform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) when it comes to **service dog laws**. Service dogs are crucial to the lives of disabled individuals, and the laws to protect them both are in dire need of change.

Let's throw in a reminder that membership dues are coming up. Although the Montana State Grange voted to increase its dues, Whitepine Grange will still hold their individual dues at \$40 per person. We are increasing the family membership from \$70 to \$80, effective January 2027.

When you do renew, please consider throwing in a little extra to help pay the heating bills. Thanks!

What is “Grange”?

“Grange” is a national organization started in the 1800s to support farmers, ranchers and other rural residents. Grange halls, like our own Whitepine Grange, were built as local meeting places where folks could gather with neighbors for social, family, business and community events and classes. Today our mission is the same: **serving the community and providing a safe gathering place where folks can meet face to face and network with their neighbors.**

The Grange is non-denominational and nonpartisan. Whitepine Grange was chartered in 1938 and is a beloved Sanders County icon. While nearby Thompson Falls and Plains Granges have closed in recent years, Whitepine Grange and Nyah Grange (in Hot Springs) have been refurbished and are thriving with new members joining every year. These are the only two Granges left in Sanders County.

You don't need to be a Grange member to take part in our activities, but your memberships do help sustain our mission of service to local communities and families. A membership form is on the last page of this newsletter. We'd love to have you in the growing Grange family!

Resolution to Reform Existing ADA Service Animal Law

Presented by Whitepine Grange #102
To Montana State Grange
October 2, 2026

Whereas the definition of "service animals" under the current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is vague, open to personal interpretation, and difficult to enforce;

Whereas the ADA Service Dog Laws have caused a proliferation of fake service dogs that are not adequately trained in task performance or behavior;

Whereas the above-referenced act can lead to endangerment, injury and disruption of legitimately trained service dogs and the general public;

Whereas the ADA Service Dog Laws require no official verification or documentation identifying a dog as a "service dog"; and

Whereas enforcement the ADA Service Dog Laws are difficult and legally threatening for business owners who must deal with misbehaving pets misrepresented as "service dogs"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Whitepine Grange #102

- urges Montana State Grange and National Grange to call for reform of existing ADA laws concerning service animals;
- urges U.S. Congress to enact regulations requiring service dogs to be licensed by a government entity capable of adequately assessing the training of such dogs to perform specific physical tasks for a disabled individual; and
- supports and encourages public and private education efforts to explain and clarify such reforms to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mover: Jan Manning, president, Whitepine Grange #102 (406-827-6385)

Seconder: Juanita Triplett, executive committee, Whitepine Grange #102 (406-827-3357)

Voted and approved by Whitepine Grange membership on Sept. 22, 2026

WHITEPINE GRANGE OCT.-NOV. SCHEDULE

Thurs., Oct. 8	Joy of Movement, 9am
Thurs., Oct. 8	Hum Drums, 10:15
Mon., Oct. 12	GRANGE CLOSED for Quilt Retreat
Tues., Oct. 13	GRANGE CLOSED for Quilt Retreat
Wed., Oct. 14	GRANGE CLOSED for Quilt Retreat
Thurs., Oct. 15	GRANGE CLOSED for Quilt Retreat
Fri., Oct. 16	GRANGE CLOSED for Quilt Retreat
Mon., Oct. 19	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., Oct. 19	Hum Drums, 10:15am
Wed., Oct. 21	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Oct. 21	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., Oct. 22	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., Oct. 26	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., Oct. 26	Hum Drums, 10:15am
Tues., Oct. 27	GRANGE POTLUCK & GAMES
Wed., Oct. 28	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Oct. 28	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., Oct. 29	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., Nov. 2	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., Nov. 2	Hum Drums, 10:15am
Wed., Nov. 4	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Nov. 4	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., Nov. 5	Joy of Movement, 9am
Fri., Nov. 6	Quilters/Sewing all day
Sat., Nov. 7	4th Annual Honey Buzzaar, 10am
Mon., Nov. 9	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., Nov. 9	Hum Drums, 10:15am
Wed., Nov. 11	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Nov. 11	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., Nov. 12	Joy of Movement, 9am
Sat., Nov. 14	Cornucopia of Crafts
Mon., Nov. 16	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., Nov. 16	Hum Drums, 10:15am
Wed., Nov. 18	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Nov. 18	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., Nov. 19	Joy of Movement, 9am
Thurs., Nov. 19	Child Internet Safety Class, 6:30pm
Fri., Nov. 20	Quilting/Sewing all day
Mon., Nov. 23	Joy of Movement, 9am
Mon., Nov. 23	Hum Drums, 10:15am
Tues., Nov. 24	Pizza Potluck & Bingo, 5:30pm
Wed., Nov. 25	Rough & Rowdy Dogs, 10:30am
Wed., Nov. 25	Rally Dogs, 1pm
Thurs., Nov. 26	Joy of Movement, 9am
Sat., Nov. 28	SANTA BREAKFAST

STEP THREE: Make the Resolution come to life!

Do you approve of the Resolution on page 3? If so, the next step is for each of us, as individuals and Grange members, to take action and let Congress know. The ADA is a federal law. Hence, the first people you should contact are our Montana Senators and Representatives. Their contact websites and phone numbers are listed below.

Send them a short message telling them you favor stiffer regulations regarding service dogs. Copy and paste the whole resolution on page 3, and tell them that you, as a Grange member, support these changes. If staffers receive your message and lots of other similar messages, they will take note and recommend action.

Why is Whitepine Grange getting involved in this?

Part of our mission as a Grange is to affect positive changes in local and national policies when we identify the need. We are a service organization that advocates for the good of everyone in our country, not just Grange members. Many states and organizations have already taken similar action on this same subject. The need to reform the ADA is there, and Congress LISTENS to the voices of the Grange!

Senator Steve Daines

(202)224-2651

www.daines.senate.gov/services/email-steve/

Senator Tim Sheehy

(202)224-2644

www.sheehy.senate.gov/contact/

U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke

(202)225-5628

Zinke.house.gov/contact/

U.S. Representative Troy Downing

(202) 225-3211

Downing.house.gov/contact/



Handyman Jim Schulz climbs to new heights as he stains the wood on the Grange's new pavilion. Early October weather provided him perfect conditions.

Fourth Annual **HONEY BUZZAAR**

SATURDAY, NOV. 7

10AM TO 2PM

AT WHITEPINE GRANGE

Featuring a variety of northwestern Honey Vendors. Come and sample! Purchase directly from the producers! Honey and honey products, including baked goods, balms, etc.

Whitepine Grange is on the corner of MT Hwy 200 and Faro Lane, near MM38. We are between Trout Creek and Thompson Falls, MT.



Honey Vendors welcome! \$10 per vendor, tables provided or bring your own. Pre-registration required. Call 406-827-0102 or email whitepinegrange@gmail.com to register. Set-up begins at 8:30am Nov. 8. *Whitepine Grange has high-speed internet for your e-sales!*

Whitepine hosts Montana State Grange Convention

The Montana State Grange held its annual convention this year at Whitepine Grange Oct. 1-3.

Officers and delegates from all eight existing Granges in the state converged at Whitepine Grange for three days of policy-making, resolution passing, and fellowship. About 35 Grange representatives attended the intense work sessions and committee discussions, which help set policies that will now be taken to the National Grange Convention in November and presented for vote.

At the state session held at Whitepine Grange, committees addressed the following issues: Resources & Conservation & Agriculture; Young Adults & Junior Grange; Bylaws & Finance; Grange Membership & Activities; Legislative, Government & Taxation; Audit & Credentials; and Education, Public Service & Welfare.

It wasn't all work, however. Whitepine Grange provided virtually all the meals for the conventioners and even provided post-dinner entertainment (our own Motley Crew Cloggers). The highlight of the event was clearly the banquet, with food prepared by Chef Stefanie Martin and her "Wild Cuisine" catering crew. The special dinner attracted locals as well, with 54 folks enjoying a meal of braised short ribs, elegant greens, and turtle cheesecake.

Convention attendees were liberal with their compliments on the great facilities at our Grange. Several remembered it from the "old days" when the building was windowless and had only a subfloor, a furnace that roared, no air conditioning, and only one small restroom.

Many of our local Grange members turned out to help organize and present this three-day affair. Please see special acknowledgements on page 2 in the President's Column.

The theme of this year's Montana State Grange banquet was "Red, White and Blue." Several conventioners dressed in their best "Uncle Sam" style clothing.



The adaptability of our Grange hall was evident...from business conference during the day to a raucous capacity banquet crowd a few hours later.



National Grange president lauds Whitepine Grange for recent membership growth

Chris Hamp, president of the National Grange, along with Amanda Brozana, national membership director, made guest appearances at the Montana State Grange Annual Session held in October at Whitepine Grange.

Hamp noted that the state of **Montana ranked Number 1 in the nation in terms of Grange membership growth last year**. She attributed that directly to two Granges right here in Sanders County: our own Whitepine Grange and Nyah Grange in Hot Springs. Both Granges have been “rejuvenated” from past periods of dormancy or inactivity and are now going strong with new leadership.

Amanda Brozana, National Grange’s membership director, also praised the membership growth in Sanders County, noting national membership was up 34% over the past year, largely due to the efforts of Whitepine and Nyah Grange.

“These growth numbers are simply unheard of,” Brozana said.



National Grange President
Chris Hamp



Montana State Grange officers Judy and Terry Fosbery partake of the excellent meal catered by Chef Stefanie Martin, with help from Teresa Briesse.



Peggy Carlson and son Arne attended the Montana State Grange banquet at Whitepine Grange, where Peggy served as secretary for 30 years .

Coming events this fall at Whitepine Grange:

Nov. 7: Fourth Annual Honey Buzzaar. Stock up on local honey from vendors throughout our region. Big jars and little jars of liquid gold! Great for gifting, and great for your health. Other honey-related health and beauty products will also be on sale.

Nov. 14: Cornucopia of Crafts. Voted best and most congenial by the vendors! Pick up some hostess gifts for the holiday get-togethers!

Nov. 24: Pizza Potluck with Bingo! The public is cordially invited!

Nov. 28: Santa Breakfast and Photos. Biscuits & gravy for breakfast, then sit for photos with Santa. Perfect for holiday greeting cards! Bring the kids and grands. Pets are welcome too!

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR KIDS FROM INTERNET CRIMES

**Thurs., Nov. 19 6:30pm
at Whitepine Grange**

*[Reprinted in part from The Valley Press, Sept. 23,
Tracy Scott]*

Sanders County children face the same threat of online predators as any other area of the country, and the Sanders County Sheriff's Department is offering guidance on what parents and guardians can do to minimize the risk for kids in their care.

Detective April Phillips will discuss the growing dangers, citing local incidents she has investigated, in a town hall meeting Thurs., Nov. 19, 6:30pm at Whitepine Grange. This presentation is free, and Phillips urges educators, parents and caregivers to attend. Phillips belongs to Montana's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and has received extensive training in identifying and apprehending online predators.

The number of cyber tips involving child sexual exploitation has increased 230% between 2021 and 2024. Montana's ICAC program received 3,542 cyber tips between June 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026, indicating continued growth in reported cases of online child exploitation. Among the crimes investigators are seeing more frequently are online enticement and grooming of minors, as well as sextortion, a crime in which offenders use or threaten to release explicit images to coerce, manipulate, or extort victims.

Plan to attend this important presentation Nov. 19, 6:30pm at Whitepine Grange.

Whitepine Grange Officers 2026

President: Jan Manning

Vice-President: Kate Comunetti

Secretary: Patty English

Treasurer: Dona Pope

Exec. Committee: Kerri Cobb, John Haakenson, Juanita Triplett



YOUR CHILD IS ONLINE.
ARE YOU PREPARED?

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN PARENT & COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATIVE AND IMPORTANT PRESENTATION
DESIGNED FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, GRANDPARENTS, EDUCATORS,
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

**Thurs., Nov. 19, 6:30pm
Whitepine Grange**

PRESENTED BY
DETECTIVE APRIL PHILLIPS

Judy Joseph's Zucchini Bread

We were elated and overwhelmed by the donations of home-made quick breads, cookies and muffins donated by Whitepine Grange members for the State Grange Convention last week! They were all delicious!

One of the zucchini breads was especially noted for its moistness. Judy got the recipe online from "Sally's Baking Addiction" and several folks requested the recipe. Here's the link. Please note you'll have to cut and paste into your browser, because this is not a live link:

<https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/zucchini-bread/>

Join Whitepine Grange today!

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

☐ **New Membership** _____ **Renewal** _____
☐ Individual Membership: \$40/year ☐ Family Membership: \$80/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 _____

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 ____/____/____

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