



# “Whitepine Whispers”

## News of Whitepine Grange #102

9 Faro Lane, Trout Creek, MT 59874

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## A new roof over our heads!!!

They say, “No hoof, no horse.” The same is said for buildings: “No roof, no building.” Whitepine Grange was approaching that dire point of a deteriorating roof, but now it’s all fixed and ready to take on another several new decades and generations.

Thanks to YOUR generous donations, Whitepine Grange now has a brand new roof to bring it into the 21st century! The work was completed



in mid March by Nevin Byler and his crew from **Sawtooth Valley Construction**. We would like to thank all our donors who contributed to this effort over the past year, with special thanks to Gene and Dona Pope for their substantial gift which made completion possible this spring.

We’d also like to thank **Mason Cottrell**, who stepped in to do an emergency (no charge) repair on the old ridgecap which had suffered damage in a windstorm earlier this year.



## Why we all need this building:

Back in the early 1900s, the community of Whitepine had a general store, school, post office, baseball diamond, Grange hall, and church. All that remains of the original community now are Whitepine Community Church and Whitepine Grange, both of which were the anchor establishments of the entire neighborhood. Isn't it great we still have both?

While times have changed, the Grange hall can still be the center of activity for the Whitepine community. It gives us a place to congregate for landowner meetings, a place to host youth group activities, a place to play bingo, dance, have potlucks and enjoy each other's company as in years past. It is AVAILABLE for public use at little or no cost.

That's why **Friends of Whitepine Grange** is dedicated to raising funds for its preservation, continued modernization and upkeep. Any donations you make, whether monetary or volunteer help, are tax deductible. Most important, they are an investment in your community's future!

## Smashing bridges at the Grange!

The Trout Creek Adventist School held its annual “bridge smashing” night at the Grange in March. Students constructed bridges of toothpicks and then held a contest to see which bridges would bear the most weight before smashing to pieces. Fun for kids AND adults!!

*(Photos courtesy of Maurita Crew and Sanders County Ledger)*



## Hey, did you know this stuff??

- **Whitepine Grange No. 102** was established in 1938, and the first meetings were held at Whitepine School, which was situated just east of the existing Whitepine Community Church and next to Whitepine General Store. The school burned in 1958. The Grange members then began raising money for a new building, which was completed in 1961 with primarily donated lumber and volunteer labor.
- **Whitepine Grange** held a quilt raffle to make money to wire the church in 1939.
- **Whitepine Grange** obtained ground for ball park and picnic grounds in 1940.
- **Whitepine Grange** got playground equipment for the school in 1941.
- **Whitepine Grange** started a community library in 1944.
- **Whitepine Grange** installed a new foundation for Whitepine Community Church in 1944.
- **Whitepine Grange** was the first in the state to establish a Juvenile Grange chapter.
- *“It is the ‘election hall’ for the community, and is used for weddings, memorial services, social events, holiday bazaars, fundraising events such as a Ground Hog Fee, Hunters Ball, Easter breakfast and egg hunts as well as public meetings that address current issues.”*—From the book **Echo of Crosscuts and Rails**, originally published in 1975 by Joan M. Draszt.

## The Grange's "ragged "clothes" need replacing!



As you can see, the Grange Hall is in dire need of new siding. The old vinyl is cracked, broken, falling down, or just plain missing. Now that the new roof is on, it's time to replace the siding and protect the building from moisture that can cause rot and mold.

We are considering metal siding this time, for its practicality, ease of installation, and durability.

This will be a costly but necessary endeavor, and we

hope to raise funds by fall of 2021 so the building can be sealed up by winter.

The contractor chosen to do the siding will also install five windows—two on each side of the main hall, plus one in the kitchen. The building has always been windowless, so this will be a major improvement in appearance and air circulation.



## Rent the Grange for your event!

The Grange Hall is available for your parties, classes meetings, craft shows and more! For as little as \$25 you can get the whole building all day, with full access to the kitchen. Just call Jan Manning at 827-6385 , or Peggy Carlson at 827-4504.

## Dog training classes continue at the Grange

The Grange has been a great place for dog training classes during the cold winter, and the canine students have been attending school while their humans practiced social distancing. Classes have been the main source of revenue for this year, as instructor Jan Manning donates all fees to Whitepine Grange. These funds are used to pay utilities, insurance and other ongoing expenses for the Grange hall.

*Pictured at right: Tom Mason of Trout Creek helps his dog, Hickory, practice a sit-stay in rally obedience class at the Grange hall.*





# FAQ about Whitepine Grange No. 102



## Who owns the Grange building?

The State Grange owns the building at 9 Faro Lane in Trout Creek. If the Grange should default or close its doors, the State Grange claims the property and sells it or disposes of it as they wish.

## What financial support does Whitepine Grange get from State or National Grange?

**NONE!** All membership fees collected go straight to the national organization. NO monies are provided by national or state to maintain or improve the Whitepine Grange building. They must depend on revenue from donations and usage fees for all expenses. It is incorporated with the "Patrons of Husbandry," (National Grange), organized to promote and support rural lifestyles.

## Who can join Whitepine Grange No. 102?

Anyone can join. You need not be a farmer or even a neighbor.

## What are the advantages to joining the Grange?

You get to use the Grange hall at reduced rates. You network with your neighbors. You help support the local and national Grange mission with your dues.. Contact Peggy Carlson, 827-4504, or Jan Manning, 827-6385. Dues are \$35/year.

## Do I need to join the Grange to use the building?

No! The Grange hall is available for public use, with a very nominal rental fee starting at \$15.

## What is "Friends of Whitepine Grange"?

"Friends of Whitepine Grange" is a nonprofit 501.c.3 organization formed in 2020 for the sole purpose of raising money to support, improve and maintain Whitepine Grange for neighborhood and community use. Since the Grange itself does not have sufficient revenue sources, "Friends of Whitepine Grange" seeks grants and donations, all of which are tax deductible. "Friends of Whitepine Grange" is responsible for funding the new roof, new back porch, new front porch repairs, and indoor cosmetic improvements. The "Friends of Whitepine Grange" next endeavor is to raise money for the building's new siding and windows.



## Pressing needs . . . And how you can help Whitepine Grange No. 102 RIGHT NOW....

**New faucet for kitchen sink.** Old one is worn out and leaks. Price: about \$40 at Home Depot. Buy one for us, or just donate the money.

**New toilet.** Adopt-A-John!!!! Old toilet needs upgrading. Buy us one for about \$160 or just donate the cash and we'll engrave your name on it! (or not). Needs to be ADA compliant.

**Flooring for bathroom:** we need inexpensive vinyl about 5' x 10", plus someone to lay it down for us.

**Flooring for kitchen:** we need vinyl for the kitchen floor, about 8' x 12'. Need not be beautiful. We need it laid too.

Questions? Donations? Contact Jan Manning, "Friends of Whitepine Grange" secretary, at [sandersagility@gmail.com](mailto:sandersagility@gmail.com), or call her at 406-827-6385.