

## GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### 22 'great ideas' win funding from new school grant

By KRISTEN CATES

Tribune Staff Writer

Teachers will get the chance to enhance classroom learning in a variety of creative ways because of grants awarded by the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation.

Foundation president Bill Johnstone and others announced on Thursday that 22 projects totaling close to \$51,000 are being funded this year across the school district through the foundation's newly established Discovery Grant program.

Johnstone said teachers had the chance to apply for these grants, ranging in size from \$500 to \$3,000, based on ideas they had that would enhance student education and wouldn't otherwise be funded by the school district's general fund budget.

There were 71 grant applications, totaling more than \$160,000 in requests. He said the foundation would have liked to fund all requests.

"There were a lot of great ideas," Johnstone said.

One grant being funded is for a hoop house, which will be a joint project between students at Roosevelt Elementary School and the PeaPods Neighborhood Community Garden program. Students will work on growing, harvesting and preparing

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#### WINNING PROJECTS

A list of grant winners is on 5A



**Johnstone**

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#### Great ideas

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vegetable-based foods.

Welding and metals students at C.M. Russell High School will benefit from a pipe-notching machine used for complex metal fabrication.

Anne Martinez, a member of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation's board of directors, said she likes that grants were given to pre-kindergarten through senior programs. The programs aimed at everything from helping students improve in math to working with students in Advanced Placement biology received funds.

"They were all interesting and worthy projects. It was fun and exciting to see all the great ideas teachers had," Martinez said. "It seems like we were able to fund things at all different ages and academic levels."

To date the foundation, which received its articles of incorporation as a nonprofit agency earlier this year, has received \$500,000 in donations and pledges, Johnstone said.

The hope is that the Discovery grant program becomes a signature program of the foundation in the coming years and that more money can be added to the grants.

"It's a statement to the teachers and the students that this community cares about education," Johnstone said.

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