



# Beachlines

Volume 33

Issue 1

Fall 2024

**A safety  
newsletter for our  
employees and  
friends**



GREG BEACH | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Team,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer. As we embark on this new academic year, we want to take a moment to express our deep appreciation for the vital role each of you plays in the daily lives of our students and their families that we serve.

For over eight decades, Beach Transportation Company has been dedicated to providing safe and reliable transportation services to our community. Currently, our organization operates a fleet that covers over 1,000,000 miles annually, with more than 180 dedicated employees catering to the transportation needs of over 3,500 Missoula-area school children.

Your dedication, professionalism, and commitment to safety are the cornerstones of our organization. Every day, you ensure that our students arrive at school ready to learn and return home safely. We know that the past year has presented numerous challenges, and we are incredibly grateful for your resilience and adaptability.

## Key Updates and Reminders

**Safety First:** Our top priority remains the safety of our students and staff. Please ensure you are familiar with all safety protocols and procedures. Regular checks of your vehicle and adherence to safety guidelines are essential.

**Teamwork:** Teamwork is essential at Beach Transportation. We recognize that no single individual can build or sustain an organization alone; it takes a cohesive team effort. The enduring success of Beach Transportation is rooted in our collaborative spirit, where each team member contributes their unique talents, temperaments, and convictions. Together, we work towards a common purpose: to provide safe and reliable transportation services that benefit our community and support the educational journey of our students.

## Looking Forward

We are excited about the new school year and the opportunities it brings. Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed, and we are confident that together, we can overcome any challenges that come our way. Let's make this year a safe, efficient, and enjoyable one for our students.

Thank you once again for your unwavering commitment to our school community. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!



LEGO BEACH BUS!

<b>In this issue:</b>	
From the GM	2
Safety Zone: Put on your Bus Driver Hat	3
New team members, events, birthdays	4
Employee Profile: Coty Wilson	5

# From the GM:

Well, if it isn't our favorite group of people back together again! It's all well and nice to have the summer to catch up on some back burner items, but there is an excitement that I tend to feel at the start of another school year. Maybe not the same excitement that I felt as a kid for the first day of school, but a more nostalgic excitement as time has gone on. Seeing you all walk through the door, exchanging stories, and sharing new ideas for this year makes me smile.

Last time we chatted, I highlighted the many accomplishments that our team made over the 2023-2024 academic year. And boy howdy, there were quite a few! And although I still feel that sense of excitement to start the new academic year, this time I wanted to take an appreciative look at some of the challenges that helped us grow. It's because of these hurdles and small obstacles (some large!) that I feel that the company, and myself, have grown as we enter 2024-2025.



First, was the transition into becoming General Manager. For those of us counting, I made it over a year (I know!). But, when I looked at my new role, one of the things that first shocked me was my introduction to the new realm

called "desk life". Go ahead and chuckle, I know my fellow shop crew does. Nice, new, fancy desk. But honestly, I was used to the shop life of fixing, swapping parts for other parts, thinking creatively and being on my toes. After being a part of the shop for 33 years, it did feel different. After all, usually nice offices don't just sit empty for show. I soon became used to a new set of skills. Instead of fixing buses all the time, I was helping with contracts and personnel questions. Instead of swapping parts, we were swapping and combining routes. And, now thinking about creative solutions for partnerships with local businesses in lieu of nuts and bolts. Despite these little hurdles of mine, I feel I have come out on the other side with an appreciate outlook in what I learned.

But the learning curve didn't stop there! Some other challenges that popped up between last school year and during the summer included the dreaded technology. To give some context, we have been in business now for over 83 years. We know how the cookie crumbles, what the day-to-day looks like, and we have figured out a system that works for us in all the chaos so that it looks seamless on the outside. However, as you can imagine that means that some of the technology that we have been using has started to become outdated. Our school bus and charter trip tech were losing its touch and we transitioned over to new software in July.

Lastly, one of the larger challenges we faced was the addition of new

routes and bell times for the 2024-2025 school year. We always welcome new challenges and try to think of creative ways to ap-

## 2024-2025 School bell times

School Name	Drop Time	Departure Time	Early Out Schedule	Pull Time
MCPS Middle School	7:35am-7:40am	2:48pm	45 Min Early	2:03pm
MCPS Grade School	7:55am-8:00am	3:00pm	45 Min Early	2:15pm
MCPS High School	8:28am	3:42pm	60 Min Early	2:42pm
DeSmet	8:05am	3:35pm	60 Min Early	2:35pm
Lolo	7:50am	3:25pm	60 Min Early	2:25pm
Target Range	7:55am	3:35pm	60 Min Early	2:35pm
Woodman	8:15am	3:30pm	NA	NA

proach them. I think we did an excellent job, all things considered. We were able to recruit and train new attendants and drivers thanks to all of you. It really took an entire company with all hands-on deck for this one. Thank you for continuing to support us when challenges arise and being the reason why we can be so successful.

On that note- welcome back and we are so lucky to have you. Stay positive, keep smiling, and remember to take it one day at a time!

-Carlin

## BUS DRIVER

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size: 1 Awesome Bus Driver*	
Amount Per Serving: 1 Full Bus	
% Daily Value **	
<b>Hardworking</b>	<b>1000%</b>
<b>Regret</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Caring</b>	<b>500%</b>
<b>Skilled Driver</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Patience</b>	<b>300%</b>
<b>Caffeine</b>	<b>110%</b>

\* Not a significant source of traffic violations  
 \*\* Percent daily values are based on your unique diet.



It's always nice to have the Beach team back together again! We hope you had a wonderful vacation and are refreshed, recharged and ready to get back on a bus. Attendants, polish up your bag of student management tricks and drivers, it's time to put on your

bus driver hat!

It used to be that you could tell a professional by their hat. A baker had a tall white chef's hat, a nurse had a starched white Angel of Mercy hat, and firemen had hard red helmets. There are cowboy hats, tri-cornered pirate hats and the list goes on and on.



In our daily lives we often assume the duties of many different professions. We sometimes wear the hat of a taxi driver, a maid, a parent or grandparent, a lawn specialist, a cook, or a repairman naming just a few. Sometimes we wear more than one hat at a time and then things start to get complicated. For example, it would be very difficult to balance a checkbook while mowing the lawn. It's hard to focus on the details that each job requires when we're doing more than one job at a time.

Driving a school bus is a profession that requires focus. When we wear another hat with our "Bus driver" hat, we are unable to devote the focus necessary to be safe. When we're distracted, physically or mentally, it's almost impossible to drive a very large vehicle filled with noisy, wiggly students, through busy Missoula traffic. The bus driver hat is one hat that needs to be worn by itself. But, taking off our other hats can be difficult.

The other cares and responsibilities of our day need to be set aside for the few hours that we're on the bus. They can be picked up again when we've completed our route. It's almost certain that no one will pick them up while we're gone.

A good place to start is when we do our bus pre-trip. Use this time to change focus. Concentrate on the mechanical workings of the bus, making sure everything is in good working order so the drive is a safe one.

As we drive, it's time to practice the skills we've learned as a professional driver. We should be scanning for potential hazards and have a plan for avoiding them if they materialize. We watch our speed, driving at or slightly below the speed limit. We maintain a safe following distance at all times allowing for inclement weather and the conditions of the road. We are patient and courteous with the traffic around us.

Our bus routes require us to stay focused. We have to know where the stops are located and the safest way to approach them. If there are stop signs, we stop completely at them every time. We know where the deer frequently cross the road and are extra alert in those areas. And we never allow ourselves to get distracted while loading or unloading the students. Keeping them safe from other vehicles and from their own bus is our number 1 priority.



After the route is safely completed there are still a few responsibilities that require our attention. Walking through the bus looking carefully for sleeping children and items left behind can't be neglected. And before putting on our next hat, we make sure the bus is in good condition, ready to drive for the next time it leaves the garage.

Each of you are a professional. Because you know the details of your job, show great skill at it and conform to the standards set by the profession, you have earned the right to wear the "hat" of a school bus driver.

Remember this important hat is one that needs to be worn alone. Take off your other hats when you come to work and focus on the important job you have as a school bus driver. Do a good pre-trip. Use the skills you have to drive safely. Watch for hazards on your route being extra careful while loading and unloading your students. Do a good post trip, always checking for sleeping children.

Drivers, put on your bus driver hat and wear it with the pride it deserves, you've earned it!



# LOOKING UP THE ROAD

## SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

Please check your email and the Drivers Board for changes to the calendar

### September

- 2 No School- Labor Day
- 9 MCPS Preschool Starts
- 20 Woodman-No School
- 26 DeSmet-Half Day
- 27 DeSmet- No School  
Lolo- No School



### November

- 1 Target Range-No School
- 4 Woodman-No School  
Willard-No School
- 5 Target Range-No School
- 7 DeSmet- Half Day
- 8 DeSmet-No School  
Lolo-No School
- 11 Veterans Day



### October

- 14 Indigenous People Day  
Columbus Day
- 16 DeSmet-No School
- 17-18 No School- MEA
- 24-25 MCPS Preschool- No School
- 30 Beach Halloween Party
- 31 Halloween



- 14 MCPS-No Preschool  
MCPS (k-5, 6-8)- Half Day
- 15 MCPS-No Preschool  
MCPS (k-5, 6-8)-No School  
Woodman-No School
- 27-29 No School-Thanksgiving



### December

- 5 DeSmet-Half Day
- 20 Beach Christmas Party
- 23-31 No School-Winter Break



## SCHOOL BUS

### WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

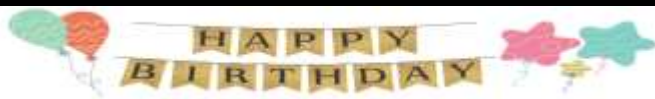
- AFTERNOON
- AISLE
- BOARD
- CAMERA
- CHILDREN
- DISTRICT
- DRIVER
- EXIT
- FRONT
- HORN
- MIRROR
- MORNING
- NOISY
- NUMBER
- REAR
- RIDE
- ROUTE
- ROWS
- SAFETY
- SEATS
- STOPS
- STREET
- STUDENTS
- TALK
- TEACHER
- TRANSPORT
- WHEELS
- YELLOW

M I R R O R P K P S A B D  
W Y E C N E E L N J C W R  
C G H S A O R A E K S O I  
H N C T Q F O T R T G L V  
I I A U T R U N R X C L E  
L N E D R O T E R A L E R  
D R T E O N E Y M E M Y T  
R O G N P T E E S R T N S  
E M H T S B R S O I R F T  
N E L S N A O W P O O I A  
T D R Z A U S A H O X N E  
D I S T R I C T R E T R S  
L R U Y T E F A S D E S G  
N E L N I R E B M U N L H  
S H V H L E L S I A D D S

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.  
Find and circle each word.



Welcome New Hires



### September

- Theresa Gordon-Ortega
- Keith Guschausky
- John Jacobs
- Don Oliver
- Becca Dingman
- Judith Church
- Kim Deschamps
- Greg Guscio
- John Otway
- Sarina Reinhard-Buckels

### October

- Major Hahn
- Mark Wiggins
- Jon Ekstrand
- Greg Johnson
- Dacia Closson
- Anikah Thorsell
- Lorrie Hegel
- Willy Williams
- Josh Spaid
- Ryelee Debeaord
- Maureen Stalolen
- JJ Bissett
- Anela Thomas
- Jack Ballas

### November

- Hank Jennings
- Bill Burt
- Cindy Marcum
- Fred Kelly
- Tracie Hoffman
- Nadine Branson
- Michael Rossmiller
- Veta Wade
- John Petrou
- Frank Hegel
- Greg Kessler
- Robbie Hoffman
- Debra Schafer
- Shawnae Stanton
- Chris Ford
- Jan Deschamps
- Dale Harding
- Vida Long
- Anela Thomas
- Zonda Berry



### August

- Sharon Davidson
- Owen Worden
- Bernie Sherman
- Monty Cawker
- Chris Duane
- Bryan Larson
- Larry Rauff
- Nate Krause
- Steve Longpre
- Randy Rathert
- Bonnie Dotz
- Randal Hanson
- Kerin Young
- Kevin Thomas
- Patricia Smith

### September

- Bill Ellen
- Alina Cummins
- Greg Bessette
- Coty Wilson
- Jerry Seidensticker
- Tony Hummel
- Greg Twigg
- Tim Weber

- Morgan Oie
- Jessica Poehler
- John Jacobs
- Christopher Ford
- Syrah Burchett
- Greg Kessler
- Tianah Shaw
- Nadine Branson
- Kenneth Howard
- Michael Dickson
- Alex Dotz
- Dacia Closson
- Tom Barrett
- Patricia Smith

- Anikah Thorsell
- Jay Woods
- Christoffer Lehnerr
- Jaxson Bissett
- Randal Hanson
- Carissa Johnson
- Taylor Jones
- Sarina Reinhard-Buckels
- Gail Partridge
- Zach Van Hemerst
- Myyah Winchell
- Jocelyn Houska
- Brent Dougherty

## Million Dollar Chicken Casserole



- 1 (10.5-ounce) can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Creole seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder, divided
- 3 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 30 buttery round crackers (such as Ritz), crushed
- 4 tablespoons melted butter, melted
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried dillweed, or to taste

### Step 1

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

### Step 2

Stir cream of chicken soup, cottage cheese, sour cream, cream cheese, Creole seasoning, onion powder, and 1/2 teaspoon of the garlic powder in a medium bowl until well blended and smooth.

### Step 3

Fold in chicken and parsley until evenly coated.

### Step 4

Combine crackers, melted butter, and remaining 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder in a medium bowl.

### Step 5

Spoon chicken mixture evenly into an 11x7-inch or 9-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with mozzarella then top with cracker mixture.

### Step 6

Place on a foil-lined baking sheet and bake in the preheated oven until crackers are golden brown and edges are bubbly, about 35 minutes. Garnish with dillweed, if desired.

# Employee Profile: Coty Wilson

Coty Wilson was working odd jobs such as cleaning houses and yard care when she decided to try driving a bus and get her CDL. When she walked into Beach, she felt super welcomed and found that as she started meeting everyone that feeling stuck.

Coty is originally from Great Falls and has two older sisters, making her the youngest of the bunch with one living in Arizona and the other still in Great Falls. Coty moved down to Missoula immediately after graduating in 2001 and has been in Missoula for the past 20 years. And in those 20



years, her home has grown. Coty has three kids of her own (4, 17, and 19-years old) with a recent grandbaby in addition to the family! Rounding off the family, Coty also has two dogs and two cats which just had a litter of kittens. Dorothy is the momma cat to Ophelia, her munchkin calico, which was born in December 2023.

Coty's 250-pound fur baby, Cowboy, has a lot of fun outdoors with Coty and her other dog Gunner.

When Coty has a day off, she prefers to relax around the house or enjoy her favorite summertime activity- being on

the river. "I love to be on the river. I will either bring my paddle board or kayak and have my big dog Cowboy sit on it too". Speaking of passions, Coty has a fondness for music. She loves a wide range of music and likes many genres, excluding slower and newer country music. If you hopped into her car right now, there might be some Widespread Panic or Mac Miller playing. She has a massive playlist saved to her computer and instead of movies or books, she prefers to have the tunes on at home.

Coty's childhood seemed to be a lively one. She recalled one of her favorite memories of running amuck outdoors and just being a kid. "We lived on the outskirts of town right next to the county junkyard. We would mess around with old cars in the junkyard and climb around on them. We would sometimes grab some motorcycles and go ride around in there with the culverts creating fun courses along with the neighbor boys. Surprisingly, no stitches!".

Growing up, her parents had their own business and were landscapers with drip irrigation systems that they started off out in their garage. "I was born and raised with a shovel in my hand!" She mentioned how they were wonderful and instilled some great way of life in Coty and her sisters. Her dad passed away 15 years ago on Rodger Pass while do-

ing what he loved- riding his motorcycle. "My dad was my hero". Coty's dad used to turn off all the lights in the house and jump out to scare them down the hallway. Between her dad and her mom, with her creative and crafty side, they brought about Coty's love for Halloween. "We never really had neighbors and would have to walk a mile to trick-or-treat so he would hide behind bushes and scare us and make Halloween that more fun".

Coty likes to do crafts in her spare time and tries making new things. This is the case when it comes to Halloween. If you ever need someone to make you an amazing costume- she would be the person I would recommend. Coty hand-makes custom costumes for all her kids during the spooky time of year. Some of these included making: the entire family costumes of the Wizard of Oz including the cowardly lion with a moving tail! Her talent for creativity on costumes keeps going. This past year, she made a bald cap that looked like a brain that had light up neurons for her son so he could be Megamind. Her dream would be to one day have her own custom-made costume shop.

In the near future, Coty wants to go see her Mom and sister over in Arizona. "My sister Ricki has a handicap daughter with Smith-Magenis syndrome. She calls me 'Aunty Ody' and I would like to see

everyone since my Mom is also getting older". Outside of visiting her family, she would like to one day take a trip to a hot and sunny beach somewhere that is more of an unknown gem kind of place.



Finally, let's end with a fun fact! She loves rocks and their various properties that are associated with them. She has them on every corner or shelf in her home, carries some in her pockets or in her vehicle. She also has unique pieces of driftwood and roots from various places. "In a way, it's like nature made its own art".

Coty is an amazingly hard worker, and we are so lucky to have her at Beach. Thanks for being one of our drivers and wash bay crew!



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Beach Transportation

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