



Beachlines

Volume 32

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Spring 2024

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



GREG BEACH | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Beach Team Members-

As we navigate our routes and wrap up another school year:

Let a high sense of honor and a deep sense of personal responsibility be our guiding light, illuminating our path with our unwavering commitment to all safety protocols and procedures in all our dealings.

Let fairness be the compass of our decisions, ensuring equitable treatment for every child, employee, and stakeholder involved in our operations, guided by principles of truthfulness and fairness, building goodwill and being beneficial to all concerned.

Let compassion be the cornerstone of our interactions, extending kindness and understanding to all, regardless of differing temperament, talents, or convictions. May we foster a culture of trust and camaraderie among colleagues and passengers alike, embodying a spirit of friendliness, courtesy, and kindness.

Let foresight shape our planning, prioritizing safety measures that enhance the well-being of our entire community, demonstrating our commitment to being prepared and responsible. With each journey, let us commit to upholding the highest standards of safety and service, honoring our Duty to God and Country, Duty to Self and Duty to the Others. Together, let us strive to set an example of excellence, ensuring every child has an equal opportunity for an education by

reaching their destination safely, without fail.

We extend our deepest gratitude for your steadfast dedication to this noble endeavor. Thank you for all you do.

Ode to a Montana Bus Driver

In the land where mountains embrace the sky, A hero drives with purpose, reaching high. Through valleys deep and meadows wide, Montana's bus driver, a steadfast guide.

Ode to you, hands firm upon the wheel, Navigating roads with a seasoned zeal. Each twist and turn, a dance you know, Through winter storms or summer's warm glow.

In the amber light of the early morn, Children gather, a new day is born. With laughter and chatter, they board your steed, Trusting you, their safety you heed.

Up hills that challenge, through fields of gold, Your story, like Montana's, forever unfolds. Through changing seasons, you persevere, A guardian on the road, year after year.

Ode to the driver, with eyes so keen, Guiding the journey, a daily routine. In this vast expanse, where freedom gleams, You're the one entrusted with America's dreams.

So here's to you, driver, with a vision so clear, Shaping the future, fostering dreams near. Through valleys and meadows, on this educational quest, You ensure America's strength, ever abreast.

Ode to you, in your dedicated journey, You keep the flame of knowledge burning, forever bright.

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From the GM:

“We are hopping along like a June bug on a Spring Day.” Or, in other words- we are moving right along! We are now in May, and with the end of the 2023-2024 school year right around the corner I thought it would be a great time to highlight successes that we have seen throughout the year. In a society that is sometimes too quick to jump to negatives, I believe it’s wonderful to see those positives come to light.

Scott and Greg continued their commitment to serving the



Missoula community in providing donations to local entities, bumping up pay for employees, and continuing contract negotiations for the upcoming school years.

Becky expertly multitasked between all the various hats she wears. If you haven’t stopped by the office during morning or afternoon check-in you should. It’s impressive! Not only did she juggle between phones, check-ins, and trip coordination, but all events that we put on for employees were headed by none other than Becky!

On another note, Josh completed his first year as lead Dispatcher. The mind puzzles of juggling Josh had to do left me amazed. Between leave slips, sick call outs, field trips during school route times, and motorcoach trips he made it look easy (even when

it’s not)!

In the special needs department, Anne rocked it this year during the implementation of our updated route system in taking over as assistant dispatcher. This year also marked a new record for her with 482 plus special needs students and over 26 specialized routes on top of that.

Speaking of students, Wayne’s numbers were marked as well! Those 350 plus student discipline referrals were handled by Wayne along with video footage review and coordinating those issues with the schools. Let’s not overlook another huge accomplishment- the driver board. Wayne’s recruitment efforts provided a full driver board! It has been some time since this was last seen, and it’s truly remarkable.

Tracie then picked up those incoming drivers and continued knocking them out of the park. She kept up with the influx of incoming employees and conducted orientations all the while making sure everyone was up to date on all things safety. She continued to improve the orientation process and made everyone feel welcome.

Shawnae finished her first year in her new role in the office! There were many rewarding outcomes within the marketing realm in helping spread the word of what makes Beach Transportation so special.

The shop and wash bay cranked through over 920 workorders and cleaned countless buses this year. You are what sets us all up for success—thank you.

Lastly, I would like to showcase one of the most important suc-



cesses of the year- you. There were so many successes, but above them all were our employees. Your willingness to go above and beyond, helping when you could, and your drive to make a positive difference in children's days was amazing. So many compliments came from schools, parents, and teachers that made us so happy you were here.

Thank you for another great year- let’s do it again in 2024-2025!

-Carlin



Missoula Word Scramble

1. TENSENLI _____
2. ELAGTELH _____
3. BGI KYS _____
4. HASTGNIOWN _____
5. WAMDEO LHIL _____
6. S.C. REPROT _____
7. YOOALL _____
8. OLLO _____
9. DETSME _____
10. ARFKNINL _____



A Spring Wakeup



Here we are! Spring has sprung, the trees and flowers are all in bloom, change is around the corner but sometimes it can feel as if all this change is leaving us static as we continue our usual routine everyday. As we begin the last

weeks of school, it's crucial to address complacency and route hypnosis to ensure the safety of passengers and other road users. To combat these tendencies, here are some strategies:

Self-assessment: Regularly evaluate your driving habits and skills. Be honest about any signs of complacency you may notice, such as lazy eyes, reduced scanning, or following distances becoming too close.

Stay alert: Keep your eyes moving and scan the road ahead and to the sides for potential hazards. Maintaining awareness of your surroundings helps prevent accidents.

Maintain safe following distances: Ensure there's enough space between your vehicle and others, giving you ample time to react to unexpected situations.

each stop, including which students get off, when to activate lights, and any other relevant details. This keeps your mind engaged and reduces the risk of distraction.

Drivers, by implementing these strategies and remaining vigilant, you can reduce the risks associated with complacency and route hypnosis. We appreciate all you have done this year to keep your passengers safe.

Please stay focused and battle the complacency that comes with the end of the school year! We are in the home stretch and almost there. Thank you for prioritizing safety in all aspects of what you do.

Radio Etiquette

Basics to remember!

1. Make sure to hold the button down for a couple of second before starting your transmission.
2. Make sure the airway is clear of other conversation before starting.
3. Keep the conversation to the point and as concise as possible.
4. If an accident has occurred, accident procedure conversations between base and the bus should come as first priority on the airway.

Example of radio communication

"Base, this is 207"

Step one: identify yourself and who you are trying to get a hold of.

"Go ahead 207"

Step two: wait for the identified party you were trying to contact to respond to you.

"I am needing a teacher to meet me outside CS Porter for student conduct issues. My ETA to the school is 5 minutes."

Step three: concisely ask what you are looking for. Give a brief reason and/or the resolution you are needing.

"Copy that, I will give the school a call to have someone outside to meet you."

Step four: wait for the receiving party to confirm or ask more info if needed.

Rules of the road

Keep traffic flowing and everyone safe next time you drive near a school bus or in a school zone. Follow safety guidelines for drivers and watch for these bus signals.

Bus signals

Be alert.
The bus is preparing to stop.

Stop immediately.
The bus is stopped and children may be crossing in front of the bus.

Crosswalks

Watch for pedestrians at school zone crosswalks.

10ft

Stopping

When a bus is stopped, all vehicles on the same road must also stop completely. Remain stopped until the school bus begins moving. Never pass a stopped school bus from behind.

Danger area

Be especially mindful of the area within 10 feet of a stopped bus. This is where children are in the most danger of being hit.

You know you are from Montana When...

- More than half the meat in your freezer is elk.
- People drive 200+ miles to shop at a mall.
- The elevation exceeds the population of your town.
- In March, your vehicle is 43% mud.
- A rodeo is more popular than a Madonna concert.
- The term "wind chill factor" is part of your daily vocabulary.
- Dressing up means wearing a clean flannel shirt and jeans that aren't too dirty.

Engage with your route: Stay actively involved in your driving by thinking about the specifics of

LOOKING UP THE ROAD

SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

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

May

- 3 DeSmet- No School
- 10 LoLo - No School
- Woodman- No School
- 24 Target Range- No School
- 27 Memorial Day- No School
- 31 Early K, Pre-school - Last Day
- Woodman- Last Day



July

15 Check in with Beach for returning

Please check in with the office staff the week of July 15th to let us know that you'll be back in the fall.



June

- 6 Lolo- Last Day
- Target Range- Last Day



- 7 MCPS- Last Day
- DeSmet - Last Day
- End-of-Year BBQ!**



2024-2025 School Start Dates

- August 28** DeSmet
- August 28** Willard
- August 28** Lolo
- August 28** Target Range
- August 29** Woodman

Missoula County Public Schools

- TBD** Early K
- August 28** K, 6th, 9th
- August 29** 1st-5th, 7th-8th, 10th-12th
- September 9** Preschool



Members of the Montana Officials Association (MOA) and served Montana kids as referees or umpires:



- Bob Beach: football & basketball
- Carlin Cavill: basketball
- Wayne Wade: football & softball
- Bryan Larson: basketball & baseball
- Dale Clawson: basketball & baseball
- John Cornish: basketball
- Kent Kirby: basketball
- Fred Lerch: football
- Frank McElwain: football
- Robert Mitchell: basketball & softball
- Bob Narum: basketball
- Brian Porch: basketball
- Dick Schipporeit: basketball
- Tom Taylor: football
- Ken Walt: basketball & football



Thanks for another great year!



April

- Bill Roduner
- Debbie Chism
- Dan Grogan
- Linda Otway
- Brad Zander
- Shannon Beach
- Wayne Harwood
- Sue Ellerman
- Lisa Wilson
- Debbie Funk
- Mickey Howell

May

- Sarah Bissett
- Silvia Wirick
- Cindy Dollinger
- Bob Luceno

June

- Mike Keyser
- Larry Gene Allen
- Larry Schroeder
- Brett Humphrey
- Donnette Coate
- Ginny Thormahlen
- Paul Yelton
- Maggie Amos
- Ross Holt
- Connie Underwood
- Val Klautd



May

- Jami Beaumont
- Ellen Lomega
- Larry Taylor
- Rick Caron
- Kevin Cregg
- Lynda Drouillard
- Michelle Boland
- Kim Olsen
- Patrick Andrus
- Lyndsey Langley
- Gerry Saulter
- Dennis Morgan
- Carlin Cavill
- Paula Sloan

July

- Joseph Drouillard
- Dana Green
- Sandy Thornton
- Gary Hettick
- MaryAnn Roe
- Larry Klotz
- Kaytlin Pamin
- Stan Mast
- Gene Schafer
- Dennis Conley
- Dayton Scott
- Jake Beach
- Michelle Hettick
- Rob Ellis
- Val Larson
- Anne Buck
- Bryan Porch
- Paul McCarthy
- Greg Beach
- Jim Bendickson
- Sophia Redmond
- Ken Thomas
- Sonja Yardley

Welcome New Hires



- Kimberly Olson
- Silvia Wirick
- Joshua Buchholz
- Keith Nelson
- Don Oliver
- Ellen Lomega
- Jami Beaumont
- Morgan Thomas
- John Kennedy
- Dennis Morgan

- Susan Ellerman
- Stephanie Bex
- Daniel Sabol
- Larry Klotz
- Ariyana Piskalns
- Dana Horton
- Major Haun
- Valerie Harwood

LET US KNOW

you're coming back!

Please check in with the office staff the week of July 15 to let us know that you will be back in the fall.

If you know someone that would make a good addition to Beach, send them to see us!



JUNE 30, 2024

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE MISSOULA MARATHON!

We will need 50 drivers on June 30th to help shuttle the marathon runners!
Please see Josh to sign up

Employee Profile: Bryan Larson

One day while refereeing high school basketball with Bob Mitchell, Bryan was pitched the idea of driving buses. He was working at the Bonner mill at the time but thought "let's give it a shot!" which was how we scored a win with Bryan joining Beach Transportation.

On and off over the past 25 years, Bryan has been with Beach Transportation as other work allowed. When the mill closed, he landed some work at Valley Electric and then ended up at Platt Electric for about 10 years. He is currently a Correction Officer at the jail. During his current career, he worked with adults for two-and-half years and is now working on the juvenile side. Bryan expressed "I really enjoy working with the juvenile side at the jail. With my experience over the years with kids, both in refereeing sports and driving bus, it has been a rewarding fit. Whenever I am parting ways with someone after their time in jail, I always think the highest compliment they can give me is to never see them here again. I see lots of folks outside around town after and get to say hello and sometimes hear a 'thank you' from them. It is really rewarding."



Bryan was born and raised in Missoula. He went to grade school at Emma Dickinson school which is now known as the Lifelong Learning Center. He continued schooling over at Rattlesnake Elementary from fifth through eighth grade and graduated from Hellgate high school. During high school, Bryan played baseball for the Missoula Mavericks & Missoula Reds and football as well. He tried his hand at basketball, but "after my freshman year, I knew I wasn't in my coaches plans so I stuck with the other two sports".

His school and those surrounding him were super supportive, especially through the rough times. He recalls how during his high school years, his younger sister was passing and the community really came together to help his family out. "The grade school my sister was at, Hellgate high school where I was, and Beach Transportation were all there for us. Bob Beach had sent over her own bus when she was able to go to school and was feeling well. It's a time I will never forget because of how amazing people were".

Growing up in Missoula, some of Bryan's favorite stomping grounds were Skate Haven roller rink and cruising the drag. "In high school, your weekends were cruising the drag down Higgins and that was big back then!" Lots of weekends also consisted of family camping trips with other families and their church. Speaking of church, Bryan is still

heavily involved with his faith. In his younger days, he would attend the First Assembly of God and still so as an adult at the River of Life out in East Missoula.

Outside of work, Bryan likes to "chase the grandkids" and keep up with all things family. With seven grandkids spread out in Montana and two in Germany, it keeps him quite busy. Bryan's youngest son got married and joined the army during the pandemic and was placed in Germany. During their time there, their family grew with two kids and worldly connections to go with it! With the oldest son (teacher and basketball coach in Wolfpoint) and youngest daughter (working for the state in Helena) life and family keeps him busy!

When Bryan isn't working, he likes to do some hiking, get outdoors, and will try his hand at bicycling this summer. Remaining active seems to be a trend as Bryan has ran 8 half marathon courses in the past including the Rock N' Rock Marathon in Vegas and ran the Missoula Marathon in 2017. This year he aims to complete the Missoula Half Marathon.

We spoke to Bryan about his goals and hopes in one of our favorite topics- retirement! Travel is high up on that list. Norway to be specific. Bryan's grandparents were from Norway but he has never been. In these travel goals, Bryan expressed the desire to tie these trips with his other passion for sports. "I would like to go see some different old ball parks like in Boston or Chicago". Another top priority would be to be present with family and staying involved whether it be a grandkid's concert at school or traveling with them.

Sports have played an integral role in Bryan's life. From sports movies like *Forty Two* and *Blind Side* to actually playing and refereeing them. Refereeing sports made a name of Bryan -and a nickname- where fellow referees coined him Stumpy and it still sticks today. He was a MOA (Montana High School Association) member officiating basketball for 35 years, working 15 boys and seven girls state basketball tournaments throughout his career. Outside of the MOA, he additionally officiated American Legion baseball for 40 years, spent 10 years as an umpire fill in for the Missoula Osprey pro baseball team and had 20 years' experience officiating basketball at the NAIA level. In 2023, the MOA announced Bryan will be inducted into the MOA Hall of Fame and his plaque will be placed over at Hellgate high school.



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Follow us on Socials!

The graphic features a central smartphone with the Beach Transportation logo on its screen. To the left of the phone are icons for YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. A red speech bubble points to the phone with the text: "Follow us on our social media accounts to see neat stories and fun facts! Stay up-to-date on safety too!". Below the phone, a white box contains the text "Beach Transportation" and "Visit our website: beachtrans.com". To the right of the phone are the Facebook and Instagram logos, with the text "Beach Transportation" and "beach.transposition" below them.