



Beachlines

Volume 33

Issue 2

Winter 2024

A safety
newsletter for our
employees and
friends



GREG BEACH | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Holiday Greetings Team-

Although the Holiday has passed, Beach Transportation would like to take a moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated employees, students, and valued customers. This time of year is perfect for reflecting on the past year and celebrating the milestones we've achieved together.

To Our Wonderful Employees: Your hard work and commitment are the backbone of our success. From safely transporting students to school to ensuring a friendly and supportive environment, your dedication does not go unnoticed. We appreciate the long hours and your unwavering commitment to safety, especially during those busy holiday seasons. Thank you for your enthusiasm and teamwork in making every ride special!

To Our Students and Families: We are grateful for your trust and support throughout the year. Your smiles and enthusiasm make our work fulfilling, and we are honored to be part of your daily routine. We wish you and your families joy, peace, and happiness.

Wishing You a Happy New Year! We hope that the holiday season brought you joy and relaxation, and may the New Year be filled with prosperity, good health, and new adventures. Thank you for being a part of the Beach Transportation family!

Warm regards,

Greg and Scott Beach

The Bus Ride

At birth we boarded the bus and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side.

However, at some station our parents will step down from the bus, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the bus; and they will be significant As our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum.

Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats.

This bus ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down.

So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the bus of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the bus of life. Reap success and give lots of love. Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my bus.

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From the GM:

Welcome back everyone. It's a new year and it feels like time is flying fast. Last time, I talked about lots of successes here and triumphs that we overcame last school year. But this time, I thought it might be refreshing to discuss some realities.



I believe that it's ok to acknowledge the challenging days. "Being in debt is hard. Being financially disciplined is hard. Starting a business is hard. Working 9-5 is hard. Life will never be easy. It will always be hard. Choose your hard and pick wisely." This quote has stuck with me for some time, and I feel that it highlights some relevant points. As all of us have something hard going on in our lives, it's important to give grace and patience to others. You never know what might be behind the person!

It is often the easiest for us to lean into negativity as a first response. It comes from all directions as we encounter others throughout our lives from childhood into our adult years. That instinctive response of anger, irritation, or demand comes from the reactions we have received in life. I would like to encourage everyone to consider using those thoughts to provide helpful hands instead of finger pointing. Take the time to allow patience to others and in turn this will contribute to someone's day (especially if it was a hard one).

We realize that outside factors might be hard as well. From the economy, housing prices, to groceries- the pressures of price in-



creases puts a burden on everyone. Health factors or family troubles can also cause someone to maybe not be their best self. On top of all of this, sometimes this negativity bleeds into your own self-talk to the point where you criticize yourself too harshly. Just remember, you are an amazing team of individuals here at Beach. Give yourself and others grace as we start this new year.

We are all here to support one another the best we can. I am honored to be working with all of you and hope that your hard days are fewer than the wonderful ones.

-Carlin



INSTRUCTIONS

For the Pie Crust

1. Sift together the flour and salt in a large bowl.
2. Add the cold butter pieces and work it in with your hands until you have a pea-sized texture
3. Add the ice water a tablespoon at a time until the dough starts to hold together. and looky shaggy (it's a feeling thing)
4. Divide the dough into four equal portions. Roll out each portion into thin dinner plate-sized disks.

For the Traditional Pasty Filling

1. Mound the beef, potato, and onion on one side of the pie dough.
2. Fold over the dough and pinch the two edges to seal it. Repeat these steps to make 3 more pasties.
3. Place the pasties on a baking sheet about one inch apart. Brush the tops (or use your fingers, the best tool for the job) with a beaten egg.
4. Bake the pasties at 350°F oven for about one hour.

For the Cheeseburger Pasty Filling

5. Mound the ground beef mixture on one side of the pie dough.
6. Fold, seal, and bake the same as the traditional pasty.
8. Serve and enjoy

MONTANA

Word Search



- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| BIG SKY | CATTLE | GREAT PLAINS | MEDICINE ROCKS |
| BILLINGS | COWBOYS | GRIZZLY BEARS | MISSOULA |
| BISON RANGE | FISHING | HELENA | RANCHES |
| BITTERROOT RANGE | FLATHEAD LAKE | HUNTING | ROCKY MOUNTAINS |
| BOZEMAN | GRANITE PEAK | KALISPELL | TOBACCO ROOTS |
| BUTTE | GREAT FALLS | LITTLE BIGHORN | YELLOWSTONE |

Free printable courtesy of WordSearchAddict.com

INGREDIENTS

For the Pie Crust

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 8 oz. unsalted butter very cold, cut into ½ inch pieces
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 7-9 TBSP ice water

For the Traditional Pasty Filling

- 10 oz. beef chuck trimmed, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 10 small potatoes cubed
- 1 small onion finely diced
- 1 egg beaten
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

For the Cheeseburger Pasty Filling

- 1/2 ib. ground beef
- 1/2 cup sharp white cheddar grated
- 1/2 cup white mushrooms sliced
- 1 TBSP onion finely diced
- 1 TBSP ketchup
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper



It's that time of year again when the days are shorter and darkness lingers into our early morning bus runs. Driving in the dark is much different than driving in the daylight. The most important difference is, of course, visibility. Reduced light conditions make it difficult to distinguish distance

and color. Our ability to see the road and the hazards on and around the road is greatly affected and if we can't see the hazard, we can't react to it. Since we are driving our buses while it's still dark, we have to make adjustments in our driving to allow us to reach our destinations safely. The vision problems that are involved with driving in the dark include; low light conditions, glare and reaction time.

Our eyes need light to see well. When it's dark, we become completely dependent on artificial sources of light to help us see and to show us where we are going. As we enter a dark vehicle, allow time for your eyes to adjust to the darkness before you start your drive. It takes a few minutes for your eyes to completely dilate allowing for the maximum light to enter your eye. Dim your interior dash lights and if you have to turn on the inside lights, be sure to let your eyes readjust to the darkness before driving after you turn them off.



Glare from oncoming headlights not only disables vision momentarily, but there is a period of recovery as your eyes readjust to the darkness. To minimize this temporary loss of vision, avert your eyes away from the oncoming lights; look instead to the white line marking the right edge

of the road. And if lights blind you from behind, adjust your rearview mirror to the night setting or move it so the lights don't shine in your eyes.

Keep your windshield and mirrors clean. Dust, dirt or film on your windows and mirrors will decrease your visibility, make the darkness seem darker and can make the oncoming headlights seem brighter. Even a thin layer of grime on headlights can decrease their illumination by up to 90%. Keep the level your windshield washer fluid at half or above.

Slow down and don't out drive your headlights means you should be able to stop within the distance illuminated by your headlights. Your reaction time depends on your ability to see the obstacle or hazard ahead. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that driv-

ers make 20 decisions per mile and have less than half a second to react to a potential accident. Give yourself longer to react to what happens in front of you. Increasing your following distance from vehicles in front of you adds another cushion of safety.

It sounds obvious, but driving in the dark is more challenging and requires different skills than driving in the daylight. Make allowances for your own vision abilities in the evenings and in the mornings while it's still dark. Let your eyes adjust, keep your windows clear, slow down, leave more space and take the responsibility of looking out for the other guy so you both can travel safely in the dark.

Safety First: Staying Alert for Wildlife on the Road



Between 2008 and 2020, Montana reported nearly 30,000 wildlife collisions, resulting in significant damages each year. "That amounts to approximately \$212.5 million in damages annually from wildlife-vehicle collisions",

according to (Kylie) Paul from the Missoulian. This figure is likely a conservative estimate, as many incidents go unreported. Here are some vital tips to help mitigate the risk of wildlife encounters on the road:

- **Always Wear Your Seatbelt:** Seatbelts are crucial for your safety in any crash.
- **Stay Cautious in Animal-Crossing Zones:** Pay extra attention in areas known for high wildlife activity, particularly where agricultural land meets forest.
- **Adjust Your Speed:** Drive at a speed that allows you to stop in time if a deer appears. Give animals space to move off the road.
- **Use High-Beam Headlights Wisely:** At night, use high beams when there's no oncoming traffic to better spot wildlife. Switch to low beams if you see an animal to avoid blinding it.
- **Be Mindful During Peak Times:** The highest-risk times for collisions are from sunset to midnight and shortly before or after sunrise. Stay extra vigilant during these hours.
- **Avoid Swerving:** If you spot an animal, brake firmly but don't swerve. Many serious accidents happen when drivers lose control in an attempt to avoid a collision.

For more in-depth information, check out this YouTube video from the U.S. Forest Service titled "[Avoiding Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions.](#)"

LOOKING UP THE ROAD

SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

Please check your email and mailboxes for changes to the calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day- No School
- 2-3 Lolo is in school
All others- No School
- 20 Martin Luther King- No School
- 27 MCPS HS only- No School
Willard- No School
- 30 DeSmet- Half Day



March

- 13 MCPS K-5- Half Day
Preschool- No School
- 14 MCPS K-5- No School
Preschool- No School
Lolo- No School
- 17-21 Spring Break- No School
- 31 Woodman- No School



February

- 6 DeSmet- Half Day
- 7 Woodman- No School
DeSmet- No School
- 10 MCPS- No School
Willard - No School
- 14 Target Range- No School
- 17 President's Day- No School



April

- 7 Willard- No School
- 11 Willard- No School
MCPS HS- No School
- 14 Preschool- No School
Woodman- No School
- 15-16 Preschool- No School
- 18 Target Range- No School
- 21 DeSmet- No School
Lolo- No School
Target Range- No School



2024 FOOD DRIVE

DONATION NUMBERS

- 2024: 2,472 lbs
- 2023: 1,804 lbs
- 2022: 1,716 lbs
- 2021: 1,553 lbs
- 2019: 1,602 lbs
- 2018: 1,135 lbs
- 2017: 1,108 lbs
- 2016: 1,131 lbs
- 2015: 844 lbs



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Welcome New Hires



Linda Morris
Xavier Speed
Drew Badovinac
Nichole Ford
Jake Venolia
Mike Backstrom
Tiffany Shepherd

Carol Wilburn
Suzanne Shubert
Ryan Neil
Sherrie Sharp
Regina Redman
Hunter Rodrick



January

Irene Nelson
Daniel LaRose
Hunter Rodrick
Meagan Scruggs
Kevin Verlanic
Mo Memoli
Dorrie Beach
Becky Pamin
Kelly Courage
Brent DeGarmo
John Turman
Adam Vylasek
Lynne Jensen
Jay Woods
Ashley Duane
Jocelyn Houska
John Kennedy

February

Ken Stone
Pansy Vylasek
Jacob Hofeldt
Ruth Jones
Mark Peterson
Heather Hallford
Wayne Wade
Terry Sullivan
Cameron Bartell
Michelle Ellen
Suzy Shulund
Denise Rohan-Smith
Kirk Johnson
Cathy Kaudy
Scott Rohan-Smith
Ken Howard

March

Regina Redman
Karra Gillingham
Julie Scott
Paul Haviland
Sue Alley
Scott Beach
Donna Kolar
Greg Miller
Thomas Hawkins
Chris Jones
Susan Webster
Sharon Wieder
Deb Flankey
Gabe Katzenstein
Syrah Burchett
Vickie White
James Boone
Bob Palmer
Paul Bohan
Troy Lawrence
Bob Mitchell
Scott Whitmore
Cliff Laub



DON'T FORGET



Sick/Missing work: If you are sick or something happened last minute, please call the main office at 406-546-6121. Leave a voicemail for us so that our front desk can convey this to Josh for coverage. Please **do not:** email, text, tell someone other than office staff, Facebook message that you will be sick. These tend to not reach us in time to know you are gone.

Pay Day: This occurs on the 2nd Business Day of each month. Ex: Sunday, December 1 so checks are available on Tuesday, December 3. These are located for pickup at the main office.

Routes: follow routes as they are stated on your route sheets. Do not change the stops for your students without first consulting with office staff. Cross out any inactive stops. If you are continuing to encounter route issues, please bring them to Josh's (big bus) or Anne's (mini bus) attention.

Strobes: If your bus is empty (even in inclement weather) please do not use the strobe. At that point you are just a normal vehicle. If you have students on-board and there is fog or other adverse weather- use your strobe!

Check your flags: please help us know you have checked your bus for sleeping children by walking the bus and putting your flag down after every trip.

The 411: Who, What, Where and How?

Josh Spaid

Meet our Lead Dispatcher. Being lead Dispatcher means always working on the ever-changing puzzle called coverage. He has been with Beach Transportation since 2000 when he started off as a school bus driver. Here are some things that you might need from Josh:

- **Missing work:** If you are not able to make it in due to an upcoming appointment or planned event, please let Josh know. We have "Leave Slips" in the office for you to fill out. Once approved, Josh will place it back in your mailbox.
- **Paycheck questions:** If you have questions about your hours or paystubs, please see Josh! He works closely on entering in this information to our payroll department. If you need to change your withholdings (W4) any office staff can assist.
- **Extra trips:** If you want to pick up extra hours, please sign up on the availability sheet located in the main office driver lounge. Josh pulls this weekly to see if he can schedule for extra hours.



Anne Buck

Meet our Assistant Dispatcher and Special Needs Coordinator. She is the brain machine behind the intricate scheduling and implementing special needs routes. She has been with Beach Transportation since 2010. Here are some things that you might need from Anne:

- **Special Needs:** If you are an attendant or a driver on a special needs bus, this is your go-to! If you need ideas to help accommodate a student on your bus, or are needing route time adjustments, please see Anne.
- **Mini bus assignments:** If you need to change your assigned bus due to schedule conflicts long term, please see Anne.
- **Dispatch:** If Josh is not available or is gone, Anne is here to help! Come to Anne for trips or questions.



Becky Pamin

Meet our amazing Secretary. Becky started with Beach Transportation in 2010 and is honestly what makes us tick and run smoothly daily. Here are some things you might need from Becky:

- **Checking-In:** When you arrive for your shift, please check in with Becky in-person or over the radio. She will have any notes or coverage info to give you then.
- **Contact Changes:** If your address or phone number have changed, please let Becky know!
- **Dispatch:** Becky is also in line to provide backup for Dispatch if Josh or Anne are not available. If there are questions you are not sure about, she can guide you in the right direction!

Tracie Hoffman

Meet your Safety Director and Driver Trainer. She is in-

involved in all things safety and keeps us in compliance with all we do. Tracie started in 1996 as a school bus attendant and hasn't left us since (and never will). Here are some things you might need from Tracie:

- **Training:** if you are interested in becoming a school bus driver, motor coach driver or attendant, this is your person! She will get you ready for your position.
- **Safety Meetings:** Tracie conducts monthly safety meetings both in-person and recorded online. Get paid for your time attending by coming to the scheduled ones on your employee calendar or filling out the questionnaire (located in driver lounge) after watching the YouTube video. To see the video go to YouTube and type "Beach Transportation".
- **First Aid/ CPR/ compliance:** When it comes to drug testing, getting your certifications or questions on First Aid/CPR come to Tracie. School bus drivers are required to be current on CPR/First Aid. Please complete those online training courses when your name appears, and you will be reimbursed for the costs.



Wayne Wade

Meet our Student Management and Personnel Recruiter. Wayne started in 2005 as a school bus driver at Beach and remains the expert when it comes to helping our school bus teams manage student behavior issues and hiring the best of the best (you!). Here are some things you might need from Wayne:

- **Student Conduct:** If you are having issues with a child on your bus, please fill out a "Student Conduct Report" located in the main office lounge. These will go to Wayne to send to the schools so that they may act and find resolutions.
- **Hiring & training:** Wayne interviews the best candidates and finds the talent (you!). Before you start training on the road, you need to meet with Wayne to study for the written test. Wayne will guide you through supplemental video content to pass your written test in flying colors.



Shawnae Stanton

Meet our Clerical Administrator. She started as a school bus driver in 2022 and continues the uphill battle that is marketing and accounts payable.

- **Work Comp:** If you are injured while you are on shift, please see Shawnae. She can start the paperwork to make sure you are taken care of down the line even if it doesn't progress.
- **Fueling:** If you make a mistake in entering in your mileage while at the pump, please see Shawnae. If you have questions on how to fuel, she can help teach you too!
- **Photo Contest:** If you have a photo of a school bus or charter bus that you would like to enter, submit to ssanton@beachtrans.com. We announce winners at the end-of-year BBQ with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.



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