



# Beachlines

Volume 34

Issue 1

Fall 2025

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



## Welcome Back

### *Celebrating 85 Years of Service*

Dear Beach Transportation Family,

Welcome to the start of our 85th school year—a remarkable milestone that reflects nearly a century of dedication to Missoula's children. As students return to classrooms and our buses are on the road once again, I'm reminded of just how meaningful our work is.

Eighty-five years. That's not just a number—it's a legacy. A legacy built not by buildings or equipment, but by people like you. Our drivers, attendants, mechanics, and support staff are the foundation of that legacy. Your daily commitment, compassion, and professionalism are what make Beach Transportation truly special.

It's easy to think of school transportation as routine—but we know better. What we do is far more than driving routes and following schedules. We are shaping futures. We ensure that every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, has safe, dependable access to education. We are the first and last connection they have to their school day, and that connection can make all the difference.

Education has always been the engine of America's progress. We are a nation built on diversity, resilience, and opportunity—and education is where those ideals take root. Our role in supporting that

process is both humbling and vital.

As we celebrate this incredible milestone, let's reaffirm our commitment to the core values that have guided us for generations:

- Service above self
- Compassion and professionalism
- Safety without compromise
- Teamwork rooted in respect

To each of you—thank you. Thank you for being part of the Beach Transportation family. Thank you for showing up every day with purpose. On behalf of Scott and the entire leadership team, we wish you a safe, successful, and rewarding school year.

With sincere gratitude,  
Greg D. Beach  
Vice President



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# From the GM:

Dear Team,

Welcome back to another exciting and impactful school year at Beach Transportation. As we gear up for the 2025–2026 school year, we want to take a moment to thank every one of you for the critical role you play in the safety, education, and daily routine of our



students and communities. We hope your summer was restful and fulfilling—and that you're recharged for what's ahead!

## A New Year, A Renewed Purpose

The yellow school bus is more than just a vehicle—it's a moving symbol of safety, trust, and opportunity. Each morning and afternoon, parents and guardians count on you to safely transport their most precious cargo. It's a responsibility we don't take lightly, and we know you don't either.

Whether you're a driver, dispatcher, mechanic, aide, or office staff member, your commitment keeps everything rolling smoothly. This year, we're not just getting students from point A to point B—we're helping them get where they're going in life. Let that inspire your every mile.

## Important Reminders as We Start the Year

- **Safety First** – Always conduct your pre-trip inspections, stay alert, and follow traffic laws carefully—especially in school zones. Our #1 priority remains

the safety of students, staff, and drivers.

- **Be Punctual and Prepared** – Routes have been updated by the school districts. Make sure to double-check any changes before the first day of school. Be early, be ready, and be flexible.
- **Stay Connected** – If you haven't already, make sure to grab an employee calendar and to check your mailboxes and emails for messages. Communication is key!
- **Be Kind and Respectful** – A smile and a kind word can make all the difference to a nervous kindergartener or a tired high schooler. Let's set the tone for their day with compassion and professionalism.
- **Maintenance Matters** – If something doesn't sound, feel, or look right on your bus—report it immediately. Your attention can prevent breakdowns and keep everyone safe.



## What to Look Forward To

This year, we'll be rolling out a few exciting changes and initiatives:

- **Appreciation Events** – We have our annual employee events that will be happening again this year! Join us for the Halloween party, Christmas party, root beer floats, and more!

- **Ongoing Training Opportunities** – Keep your skills sharp with monthly sessions. And don't forget to attend the safety drawing after those meetings to get some free cake and win some gift cards.
- **New Equipment and Upgrades** – Several buses in our fleet are new. They have a little different setup. If you happen to use one these newer buses and need help, ask away.

## Let's Make This Our Best Year Yet

Together, we are more than coworkers—we're a team, a family, and a vital part of the school community. Let's show up for our students and each other every day with pride, professionalism, and positivity.

From early mornings to snowy days, your dedication never wavers. Here's to a safe, smooth, and successful 2025–2026 school year. Let's make every ride count!

-Carlin

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## Power snacks on the Go!

*Food ideas to power a bus crew*

- Jerky
- Trail Mix
- Turkey roll ups
- Greek Yogurt parfait
- Veggies and dip
- Tuna
- Hard-boiled eggs
- Peanut butter celery sticks



# The Wheels on the Bus- And the Hands that Guide Them



Throughout history, the wheel has stood out as one of mankind's most important inventions. Likely first used to move

heavy objects with greater ease, the wheel soon became central to transportation, enabling people to travel farther and faster than ever before. It revolutionized manufacturing and even found a place in recreation.



Here at Beach, our jobs—if you'll pardon the pun—*revolve* around the wheel as it turns day in and day out on the big yellow bus. But while the wheels get us where we need to go, it's *our* actions that determine how safely we get there.

**Bus Attendants** play a vital role in this journey:

- Faithfully ensuring students who use wheelchairs or car seats are securely and properly restrained.
- Helping keep distracting noise to a minimum so drivers can focus on the road.
- Anticipating and de-escalating issues between students before they become serious.
- Assisting drivers by being additional eyes and ears for potential hazards outside the bus.

**School Bus Drivers** carry the responsibility of navigating the road and ensuring the safety of the vehicle and its precious cargo—our students:

- Stay committed to safe driving practices and eliminate any bad habits.
- Always reflect professionalism and caution, especially in heavy traffic or around bicycles.
- Drive defensively, constantly scanning for unsafe situations.
- Make sound decisions that prioritize safety above all else.



Yes, the wheel was a transformative invention—but it's the capable, committed hands of our drivers and attendants that steer the course and safeguard the journey.

As we begin another school year, I challenge each of you to take ownership of your responsibilities. Perform your duties with diligence, professionalism, and pride.

Because as the song goes, “*the wheels on the bus go round and round*”—but it’s you who ensures they do so safely *all through the town*.

6	2							
5			9	1		7		
	9	8	2	4				
4		7						
2								9
						5		7
				5	8	4	2	
		3		9	2			8
							7	1

Submit your photos all year round to Shawnae! Must have a bus in the photo from the 2025-2026 year.  
No students in the photos



### Welcome New Hires



Alyona Westrom  
James Dredger  
Kevin Cregg  
Peter Minett  
Mike Cotter  
Mathew Goodrich  
Annie McLaverty  
Will Simmons  
Ayla Venable



#### August

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

#### October

Mark Wiggins  
Jon Ekstrand  
Lily Sanclair  
Mathew Goodrich  
Nichole Ford  
Lorrie Hegel  
Peter Minett  
Willy Williams  
Josh Spaid  
Ryelee Debeaord  
Maureen Statelen  
Linda Morris  
Alyona Westrom  
Jack Ballas

#### November

Hank Jennings  
Bill Burt  
Cindy Marcum  
Fred Kelly  
Tracie Hoffman  
Nadine Branson  
Michael Rossmiller  
John Petrou  
Frank Hegel  
Greg Kessler  
Debbie Schafer  
Shawnae Stanton  
Chris Ford  
Dale Harding  
Vida Long  
Zonda Berry

#### September

Bill Ellen  
Alina Cummins  
Greg Bessette  
Jerry Seidensticker  
Tony Hummel  
Greg Twigg  
Theresa Gordon-Ortega  
Tim Weber  
John Jacobs  
Kim Deschamps  
Greg Guscio



#### December

Jay Raser  
Larry McDonald  
Mickey Winchel  
Carole Dennis  
Morgan Oie  
Harvey Delger  
Scott Ammons  
Larry Gail Allen

## LOOKING UP THE ROAD

### SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

Please check your email and mailboxes for changes to the calendar

#### August

27 DeSmet- starts  
Willard- starts  
Target Range- starts  
MCPS: EL-K, 6 & 9 -starts



28 Woodman- starts  
MCPS: 1-5, 7-8, 10-12 starts



#### September

1 No School- Labor Day  
2 Lolo-starts



19 Woodman-No School

25 DeSmet- ½ day



26 DeSmet- No School  
Lolo-No School

29 Target Range-No School

#### October

15 DeSmet-No School



16-17 No School- MEA

31 Employee Halloween Party!



#### November

3 Willard-No School  
Woodman-No School

7 Lolo-No School  
Target Range-No School

13 DeSmet- ½ Day  
MCPS: EL-5, 6-8- ½ Day

14 DeSmet-No School  
Woodman-No School  
MCPS: EL-5, 6-8-No School



26-28 No School

#### Riddles

Answers are located on page 6 (on back)

1. What is more useful when it is broken?
2. What comes down but never goes up?
3. Why is Europe like a frying pan?
4. What do the letter "t" and an island have in common?
5. What kind of ship has two mates but no captain?

#### 2025-2026 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

# Employee Profile: Shawnae Stanton

Once upon a time there was a young girl who loved books and she was excited to finally be the character in her own short story. Shawnae was born in Arizona but raised in Missoula (not on a small farm or in a far-away magical land). In the hot arid desert of Phoenix, under the hot beating sun that seemed to hold a personal vendetta against humanity, Shawnae's journey began. If this chapter of her life had a title, it would be called "Monsoons and dream blankets".

## Chapter 1: Monsoons and dream blankets

Shawnae was never a fan of the heat — and that still holds true today. Those feelings took root right here, in the desert. You see, Monsoon seasons are magical in their own way. When your days are filled with sizzling sidewalks and car seats that are too hot to sit on, you come to appreciate the change with something so drastic as a rolling wall of dust, clouds, lightning and rain. And, in the Stanton family household, this was an all-out family event in which candles were preemptively lit, blankets were brought out on the porch, and her favorite song "The Thunder Rolls" was immediately put on play. Now these blankets were also a requirement every night when story time happened. Shawnae's father secretly told her "when you let the blanket listen to the story, it absorbs the tale so that you can have good dreams".

Ok, now back to the rain. Once the storm hit, Shawnae would run out onto those sidewalks (no longer scorching) and dance in the rain. So, when her first summer camp experience came along and all campers were required to choose a nickname, Shawnae proudly declared "Storm" was hers. To this day, when she receives some texts messages, cards, or flowers from her father- you might catch it addressed to Storm.

One day, on a camping trip in Arizona with her mother, father and brother she ran excitedly back to the cabin shouting and pointing "look! Look! That bird over there". Her parents glanced quizzically in the direction she was pointing. Shawnae lowered her voice to a whisper and said, "it's like the birds from my book. It's a robin red breast". It was then that the girl's father and mother looked at each other and made the quick



decision that their daughter should be raised back in their hometown amongst snow, rain and birds of all kind.

## Chapter 2: The gist of the girl

Let's go over some quick facts to establish the personality and *character* of our main character. Shawnae loves running, coffee, and spicy food. The spicier, the better. She loves reading as a form of escape and finds the clothing from the roaring 1920's romantic. In fact, someday she hopes to do a black/white wedding photo shoot at Fort Missoula inspired by that time. But, above all, Shawnae loved her grandma Cyndi very much. Every summer she would be dropped off in Olympia

Washington at her grandmothers to spend two weeks with her. It was here that she was taught how to make lemon meringue and grasshopper pies as well as "feed the slugs salt because they were hungry" (that sense of humor definitely ran through the family). Her house was also its own magical place. Filled with an overabundance of flower gardens and bird feeders (look more birds!), with roots that ran deep from Cyndi's time being a florist at the Bitterroot flower shop.

When her grandmother passed from cancer in 2007 the family kept lilies out for her "so that she would stop and visit". Shawnae, trying to think smarter, didn't want a flower that died and so she named her first dog Lily so her grandmother would visit always. Today, her black lab Ren continues that tradition with her name in Japanese meaning "water lily" for rebirth in flower language (if you haven't heard of that before- look it up. It's a thing).



Shawnae also loved learning new things. Her passion for academics took her to Loyola Sacred Heart High School in Missoula all the way to the University of Vermont where she majored in Anthropology and Japanese. Now, many folks think of



bones and dinosaurs when they think of anthropology, which is all well and good. However, her interests lay in the cultural and linguistic side of the study. She continued studying language in Japan at Kansai Gaidai University before coming back west to Joseph, Oregon. It was there in Oregon that

Shawnae started living out one of her other dreams—being a park ranger. She worked with Oregon State Parks for almost 7 years but like many of us as we grow older, the girl realized what was truly important— family. With most of her family still in Montana, she headed home.

## Chapter 3: Boxes

In Shawnae's adult years, she became quite familiar with the sound of packing tape closing cardboard boxes. From Missoula, to Vermont, Japan and Oregon and back again- she had made the 11-year roundtrip journey with many of them. As she settled back down in Missoula, she realized that she had checked off some of those life goal boxes as well. Traveled? Check. Found a wonderful job at Beach? Check. Bought her first home. Double check. She knew there were many more boxes to check, but she was content. Some call her quirky. Some still stumble over her name. But she answers to Storm, Shawnae, and any version of herself that's danced in the rain. But no matter the moniker you use, she knew she was made of storms and dreams both lived and yet to come. Every story has a beginning, middle, and end — but Shawnae's is still being written.



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**We Deliver!**

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### Answers to riddles pg.4

Answers:

1. An Egg
2. Rain
3. Because there is Greece at the bottom
4. They're both in the middle of water
5. A relationship