

MS middle school students stop bus from crashing after driver blacks out

AP By Sophie Bates
April 28, 2026
Quick-thinking middle school students in Mississippi kept their school bus from crashing after their driver passed out while on a four-lane highway.

The bus had just left Hancock Middle School in Hancock County on Wednesday with about 40 children on board when Leah Taylor, 46, had an asthma attack. She reached for her medication but blacked out before she could get it.

In a matter of seconds, the students sprang into action.

Sixth grader Jackson Casnave, 12, who was sitting directly behind the driver, noticed the bus beginning to swerve. Casnave jumped up to steer and

told others to call for help.

"I didn't have time to process my emotions," Casnave said. "I just wanted to make sure that nobody got hurt."

Another sixth grader, 12-year-old Darrius Clark, hit the brakes, and together the two managed to maneuver the bus onto a median and put it in park.

Clark's 13-year-old sister Kayleigh ran from the back of the bus to the front and called 911. She said later that she could hardly hear the emergency operator because so many students were screaming.

"I was scared, but also I had to help," said Kayleigh Clark, an eighth grader.

Fellow eighth grader Destiny Cornelius, 15, also ran up

to help and noticed that Taylor was holding a nebulizer. Cornelius administered the medicine while McKenzy Finch, a 13-year-old sixth grader, held Taylor's head.

Finch also picked up Taylor's phone, which was ringing, and told the district's transportation team what had happened.

"I'm grateful for my students," said Taylor, who has made a full recovery. "They're the ones that saved my life and everybody else's on that bus."

The students were honored at a pep rally Friday and will be treated to a lunch field trip next week at a restaurant of their choosing.

"What they did took courage," principal Dr. Melissa Saucier said. "They didn't wait for somebody to step in, they stepped up themselves, and that says a lot about their character."

Offensive mastermind Mike Leach, who died in 2022, heads ballot for College Football Hall of Fame

AP By Eric Olson

Mike Leach, the eccentric and revolutionary offensive savant whose teams set dozens of scoring and passing records over his 21-year head coaching career, is among the nominees for the 2027 College Football Hall of Fame class.

The National Football Foundation released the ballot Monday for the class that will be announced in January. It includes 80 players and nine coaches from the Football Bowl Subdivision and 99 players and 39 coaches from lower levels.

A player is eligible 10 full seasons after his last year in college and must have received first-team All-America honors by a major selector. The nominee's college football achievements are a prime consideration, but his post-football record as a citizen also is a factor.

Leach, who died in 2022 at age 61, became eligible for induction under adjusted criteria for coaches to be considered. The NFF announced last year the minimum career winning percentage required would go from .600 to .595 beginning in 2027.

Leach had a .596 winning percentage with a 158-107 record at Texas Tech, Washington State and Mississippi State.

Leach was known for his innovative wide-open offenses and his knack for pulling upsets. He won 18 games against Top 25 opponents when his team was unranked.

Among other FBS coaches on the ballot are Larry Coker, whose Miami team won the 2001 season's national championship; Dennis Franchione, who made stops at TCU, Alabama and Texas A&M; Ralph Fried-

gen, who led Maryland to bowls in seven of his 10 seasons; Darryl Rogers, 1977 Big Ten coach of the year at Michigan State; Jackie Sherrill, all-time wins leader at Mississippi State; and Tommy Tuberville, who led powerful Auburn teams of the 2000s.

Heisman Trophy winners Cam Newton of Auburn (2010) and Robert Griffin III of Baylor (2011) are on the ballot along with first-time nominees Tavon Austin of West Virginia, Melvin Gordon of Wisconsin, A.J. Hawk of Ohio State and Barrett Jones of Alabama.

Nominees go through a screening process to assure they meet eligibility criteria before a vote is taken among members of the NFF and Football Writers Association of America. Voting results are sent to the NFF Honors Court, which makes final selections.

Peggy's Ponderings

With the thermometer climbing into the suffocating unbearable to be outside weather, I have had to give up sitting on my back porch and am now sequestered inside where our air conditioning is keeping me cool and companionable, (I get really mean when I get hot). That hot, sticky, hard to breathe feeling that comes over me when I begin to sweat makes me argumental to say the least. My husband



Peggy Sims

tries to keep me cool. When spring first came upon us, the flowers blooming, the weather on my back porch and as I tended my flower beds was pleasant and I truly enjoyed being outside. But...in a couple of weeks it was steamy, hard to breathe, making me mean temperatures. Now my flower beds are growing and flourishing with sumac, poison ivy, and fescue grasses.

We have a friend who just moved here from Michigan and has gone to work in an outside job, and I remember him saying, "The Mississippi heat is not all that bad." Well, that was back when I was sitting on my porch and tending my flower beds. Now he's melting down just as we all are.

I just can't remember it being this hot and stifling when I was growing up. We had NO air conditioning but had one window fan

in a back bedroom window and slept with our windows open to catch a breeze. I remember sleeping nearly inside my window with just the screen separating me from the outside elements. If it rained - wonderful! Now days if we only had a screen protecting us from the outside, we would be snatched through the small blockade and never heard from again.

And to make the situation more complicated here at the Circle S, my husband is cold natured.

We watch television at night with him wrapped in a soft fluffy blanket as I am very comfortable. I have a small fan on the table right beside my side of the bed and it keeps the sheets on our bed cool, even during the winter months. He sleeps in his socks!

We don't have a swimming pool here on the farm, but we do have several large ponds and lakes. Do snakes bite under water?

We are enjoying lots of fresh squash from our garden, and I am trying ways to fix them. Here's one new recipe

Brown a pound of ground chuck with one diced onion and 1/2 cup of bell pepper, one t. garlic powder, salt and pepper until done. Set aside. Cut up about 5 cups of fresh squash and pour over top of meat. Simmer until squash is tender, browned and cooked down.



FREE SUMMER MEALS!

The Holmes County Consolidated School District announces its participation in the federally funded Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Under the SFSP, nutritious meals are provided free of charge to children 18 years and under.

MEAL SITES & TIMES

William Dean Jr. Elementary School 96 Rockport Rd Lexington, MS 39095	Holmes County Central High School 9479 Brozville Rd Lexington, MS 39095
Breakfast 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Lunch 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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- (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: Program.Intake@usda.gov.

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