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Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Three dead, five injured as crane collapses onto freeway bridge

By John Seewar
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOLEDO, Ohio — A crane collapsed onto a construction site at an interstate bridge Monday, crushing a tractor-trailer and killing three workers, fire officials said.

Five other injured workers, including one in critical condition, were taken to St. Vincent Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Gloria Enk said. Authorities at the scene said no one else was trapped, and no motorists were injured.

Traffic had been open on Interstate 280 when the crane

collapsed about 2:30 p.m. and fell between the northbound and southbound lanes on the highway's approach to the bridge over the Maumee River south of downtown, Toledo fire Capt. Robert Krause said.

Dawn Croydon and her husband were driving south across the bridge when they saw a huge dust cloud. As they approached and the dust cleared, they saw workers hanging limp in their safety harnesses.

"I'm still shaking," Dawn Croydon said from her home in suburban Northwood.

The 2 million-pound crane was moving at the time it collapsed, said Joe Rutherford,

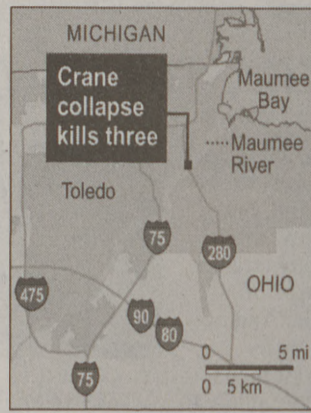
spokesman for the Ohio Department of Transportation. The cause of the collapse was under investigation.

Lucky Davis, 33, of Toledo, said he was driving north on I-280 about 50 yards from the crane when he heard a crack.

"It was like the loudest thunder I've ever heard in my life," Davis said. "It was like a split second and I heard people screaming. I was in shock."

The interstate was closed in both directions after the collapse.

The crane was part of a \$277 million project to build a new six-lane freeway bridge alongside the four-lane Craig Memorial Bridge.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

Restaurants offer more low-carb fare

By Sarah Karush
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — As Burger King promotes bunless burgers and Subway hawks low-carb sandwich wraps, some upscale restaurants are pouring on the cream and perfecting flourishes in their own appeal to those on Atkins-style diets.

The Rattlesnake Club, one of Detroit's most fashionable restaurants, added a low-carb menu about a year ago. Another local hot spot, Opus One, added nine low-carb entrees to its lunch menu last fall.

"It's because, quite frankly, I eat that way," said Opus One owner James Kokas.

His low-carb menu is a fairly simple substitution process. Hold the croutons on the chicken caesar salad and serve the meat with a béarnaise sauce, consisting primarily of butter and egg yolks.

In emphasizing protein over starch, many high-end restaurateurs say they are simply following their own changing preferences.

Rattlesnake Club chef-owner Jimmy Schmidt says he has long avoided refined carbohydrates like white flour, white rice and refined sugar in his own diet, and he tries to keep those ingredients to a minimum in the Rattlesnake's overall menu.

About a year ago, he took it a step farther with a separate low-carb menu, which offers three choices each for appetizer, entree and dessert, as well as two salad choices. Schmidt estimates it accounts for 20 percent to 30 percent of his Detroit sales and up to 50 percent at the other Rattlesnake Club in Coachella, Calif.

Customers "are thrilled because they don't have to say 'Well, I'd really like the tenderloin of beef, but I don't want the potatoes,'" Schmidt said. "This simplifies it."

From Malpeque oysters in champagne (net carbs: 3 grams) to the "gingered pumpkin creme brulee martini" (also 3 grams), the Rattlesnake's low-carb menu doesn't sound like diet fare. A full four-course low-carb meal costs \$69.

While there is still much debate about the potential benefits or dangers of low-carb diets in the medical community, the trend shows no sign of waning. About 10 million people, or 31 percent of the population, were on a regimented low-carb diet as of September, according to the market research company NPD Group.

Low-carb food has always been available in restaurants. Ordering steak instead of pasta is an obvious choice, so many of the recent changes have just been a matter of marketing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Death of Aboriginal teen sparks riots

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Mainly Aboriginal rioters set fire to a train station and pelted police with gas bombs Monday during a nine-hour street battle that began after a teenager died, allegedly while being chased by officers.

The overnight rioting in the Redfern neighborhood, an Aboriginal ghetto of Australia's most populous city, left 40 officers injured and highlighted continuing tensions between authorities and the nation's original inhabitants.

The street battle followed the death of a 17-year-old Aboriginal, Thomas Hickey, who was impaled on a fence when he fell from his bicycle. His mother claimed officers were chasing the teen, an allegation the police deny.

Dean to continue presidential bid

MILWAUKEE (AP) — His advisers says it's time to go, defiant Howard Dean says he's staying, despite a zero-for-100 record in Democratic presidential primaries and caucuses. Unresolved for the one-time front-runner is how he proceeds from here.

Advisers to Dean are urging him to abandon the race if he loses Wisconsin and consider several options, including dropping from the race outright, suspending his campaign or at least acknowledging Kerry's accomplishment and retiring his own efforts.

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