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Cory Byknish/Herald

A tractor-trailer traveling westbound on Interstate 80 lost control two miles past the West Middlesex exit Tuesday morning. The truck instantly caught on fire, but the driver was able to escape with no injuries.

SHENANGO TOWNSHIP

Jackknifed truck on I-80 brings traffic jam to valley

By Melissa Klaric
Herald Staff Writer

Traffic westbound on Interstate 80 came to an abrupt halt Tuesday morning when a tractor-trailer veered out of control, jackknifed and caught fire, barely missing the bridge that runs over Seig Hill in Shenango Township.

No one was injured in the accident that involved another tractor-trailer.

The driver of a flat bed trailer truck, Orestes Dergado, 50, from Cuba, said he's never been in an accident or even had a traffic citation in the 14 years of driving a truck.

Dergado said he was in the right lane traveling west when another truck passed him on the left, cut over in front of him and slowed down.

That caused him to lose control.



Cory Byknish/Herald

Wrecker crews clean up the area to get traffic moving again on Interstate 80.

DEATHS

Floyd Charles Bollinger, 87, of 99 Todd Ave., Hermitage, formerly of Mercer.

Louis J. Ecker, 56, Wheatland.

Carl M. Elder, 96, Old Mercer Road, Wilmington Township, Lawrence County.

Mary L. Fanelli, 93, Hawthorne Place, formerly of Plum Street, both Sharon.

Raymond Ross Garlick, 80, Worth Township.

Mary Louise Jackson, 81, Sharon.

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*SOUNDS
FAMILIAR*
**Brighten up
the corner**

A motorist was driving in the country when he came upon a priest and a rabbi standing on the shoulder of

AccuWeather 5-Day Forecast for Sharon

| TODAY | TONIGHT | THURSDAY |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| | | |
| Some sun, a t-storm in spots in the p.m. | A thunderstorm early; rather cloudy, mild | Very warm with sun and clouds |
| 72 | 53 | 82 57 |
| FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
| | | |
| Mostly cloudy with a shower or t-storm | Chance for rain; not as warm | Partly sunny |
| 79 55 | 70 48 | 73 50 |

Almanac

Statistics are for Youngstown through 2 p.m. yesterday.

Temperature:
 High 62
 Low 36

Precipitation:
 24 hrs. ending 2 p.m. yest. 0.02"

RealFeel Temperature

The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highest values for each day.

Wednesday 74

UV Index Today

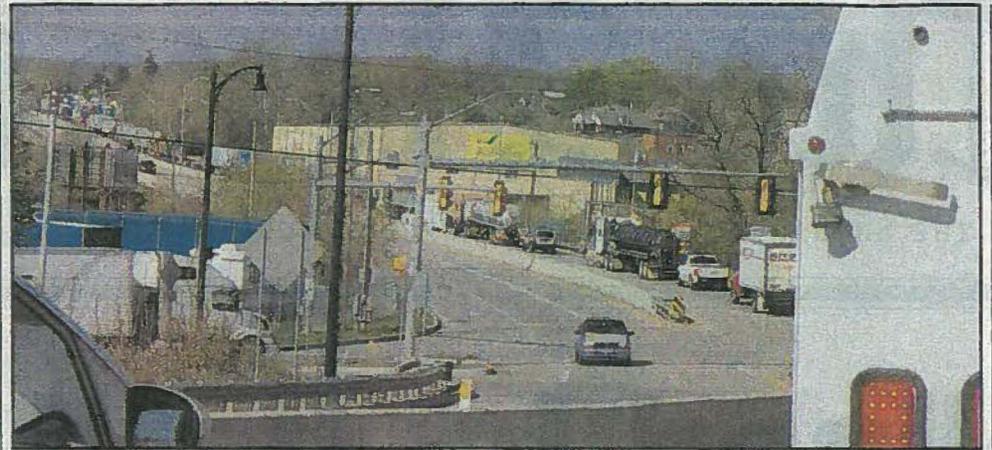
| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 8 a.m. | 1 |
| Noon 5 | |
| 4 p.m. | 3 |
| 0-2: Low | 8-10: Very High |
| 3-5: Moderate | 11+: Extreme |
| 6-7: High | |

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Sun and Moon

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Sunrise today | 6:12 a.m. |
| Sunset tonight | 8:25 p.m. |
| Moonrise today | 1:26 p.m. |
| Moonset today | 2:15 a.m. |

Moon Phases



John Zavinski/Herald

Tractor-trailers and other detoured westbound Interstate 80 traffic backed up for about a mile on the Shenango Valley Freeway in Sharon Tuesday morning as they made their way back to the interstate at the Route 62 Hubbard exit.

Truck Jackknifed truck on I-80 brings traffic jam to valley

from page A-1

control, with his truck weaving back and forth before it landed partially over an embankment, slowed by the guardrail.

"I couldn't control the steering," Dergado said.

Witnesses said Dergado was out of his cab before it caught fire, but they had to pull him out of harm's way when he tried to retrieve personal items from it.

"I walked up and it wasn't fully engulfed," Jeff Schuster, Clearfield, Pa., said. "Once it started going it took about 10 minutes to burn."

Another witness said he saw "big, thick, black smoke flying up in the air."

Police closed both lanes of I-80 westbound from the West Middlesex exit to Route 18 from 7:15 a.m. when the accident happened.

Shenango Township Fire Chief Bill Williams said PennDOT officials covered the roadway with sand to soak up spilled oil before opening both lanes of the interstate.

Curious travelers stuck in two miles of backed-up traffic

milled about the bridge, resigned to a long wait as officials worked to separate the flat bed from the almost non-existent cab.

Sharon police directed traffic at Budd Street onto Route 62, which was almost bumper to bumper tractor-trailer trucks at about 10 a.m. in slow-moving traffic into Ohio.

Drivers in West Middlesex, Hermitage and Farrell also were left scratching their heads when traffic flow was interrupted with an unusual number of trucks.

The other truck involved sustained minor damage to the back of its trailer.