

# Mother Killed by Falling Debris

For the second time in the course of a year, a motorist has been killed by debris thrown from atop an overpass.

Police received reports of young males, throwing debris from Prospect Ave. onto Interstate-74. The aforementioned reports were filed preceding the 8 a.m. accident that cost cancer survivor and mother of three, Emily Sawyer, 43, her life. Sawyer, Champaign, was struck by a 10-lb piece of granite thrown from the Prospect Avenue overpass.

Close relatives of the family say that since the death of her father four years prior, Sawyer resolved to continue on the Saturday morning tradition of taking her mother to church, spending the afternoon shopping, concluding with lunch on Marketplace Mall.

Consistent with the statement from her family, Sawyer had initially been taking her mother, Celine Taylor, to a church in St. Joseph. Imagine their surprise when a rock the size of a football crashed through the front windshield of Sawyer's 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer, splitting open her head. The large projectile landed in the backseat; the car crashed into the a protective railing separating oncoming traffic on I-74.

Sawyer was taken to Carle Foundation Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival. Her mother, Celine Taylor, was treated for her bruises and her broken arm; the accident left her feeling 'disoriented'. Luckily, no other cars were involved in the accident, but several motorists stopped to offer their assistance.

Though this more than constitutes a freak accident, it is not unheard of for someone to lose their life due to the senselessness of others. Just last year, prominent Urbana lawyer, Samuel T. Howe was killed when a can of gasoline was dropped from the Windsor Road overpass onto Interstate 57, where he had been driving.

Discussion regarding the erection of a protective gate is begged by scenarios akin to these. Sisters of the late Emily Sawyer, Felicity Shrove and Donna Taylor, issued the following statement at the hospital: "...Who would do this to a perfect stranger, just for kicks? It could have been any one of us or any of our kids. We hope that steps can be taken to prevent this from happening to anyone else."

Champaign County Crimestoppers is currently accepting tips at (217) 373-TIPS.

-Drew