

Rock Strikes and kills 43-year-old mother on Interstate 74

By: Evan Viscioni

A 10-pound chunk of granite stuck the wind shield of a 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer on the Interstate 74 overpass, killing one and injuring another.

The victim was 43-year-old Emily Sawyer who was pronounced dead at Carle Foundation Hospital. She lived at 3842 Nottingham Court, Champaign and was a mother of 3 children all under the age of 10 years old. Sawyer was a breast-cancer survivor and worked as an administrative aide at Champaign Unit 4 schools.

Relatives said that ever since Sawyers father died four years ago, she has carried on a tradition of taking her 86-year-old mother Celine Taylor to Holy Family Catholic Church in Danville, every Saturday morning and then shopping and having lunch together on Marketplace Mall on the way back.

It split open her head, bounced into the back seat as she crashed into a protective railing separating the oncoming traffic. Celine Taylor was treated for a broken arm and multiple bruises.

With the tragic and sudden death of Urbana lawyer Samuel T. Howe as killed when a can of gasoline was dropped from an overpass onto interstate 57 people want to see change.

The Prospect Avenue overpass is used both by vehicles and by bicyclists and pedestrians to get to businesses north of the freeway.

Her two sisters, Felicity Shrove and Donna Taylor, issued this statement at the hospital: "This was a senseless tragedy. Emily was a wonderful mother and caring daughter. 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."

Anyone with information about the accident can call Champaign County Crimestoppers at (217) 373-TIPS.