

For the second time this year, a Champaign resident was killed by debris thrown over the Prospect Avenue Overpass. A Champaign woman on the way to church with her mother was killed by a rock the size of a football crashing through the front windshield, splitting her head open. Police received a cell phone report of young males throwing debris from the Prospect Avenue overpass, used by both vehicles and bicyclists, onto Interstate 74 just before the 8 a.m. accident today. 43-year-old Emily Sawyer, mother of three and a breast cancer survivor, who underwent a lumpectomy and chemotherapy two years ago. Sawyer was pronounced DOA after being taken to Carle Foundation Hospital. The car crashed into a protective railing separating oncoming traffic on I-74 leaving Sawyer's mother, Celine Taylor, with a broken arm and multiple bruises. Relatives at the hospital conducted a news conference and said fences should be erected on overpasses throughout the area. 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." Fortunately, no other vehicles were involved in the crash while several motorists stopped to offer help. Anyone with information about the accident can call Champaign County Crimestoppers at (217) 373-TIPS.