

First story

Champaign woman killed while driving to church on Interstate-74. 43-year old Emily Sawyer was driving her mother to church when a rock the size of a football crashed through her windshield splitting her head open. She was taken to Carle Foundation Hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Police received information of young males throwing debris from the Prospect Avenue shortly before the 8 a.m. accident took place.

Her two sisters issued this statement at the hospital.

“This was a senseless tragedy. Emily was a wonderful mother and a 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”.

Emily leaves behind her three children all younger than the age 10, her two sisters, and her 86-year-old mother. She worked as an administrative aide at Champaign Unit 4 schools.

What’s more shocking is that this is not the first time an incident like this has happened. Last year Urbana lawyer Samuel T. Howe suffered a similar fate after a can of gasoline was thrown from an overpass hitting his car causing him to lose control causing him to crash and die.

Relatives of Emily’s said that measures need to be taken to prevent incidents like this from happening to other motorists and have called for fences to be erected on the overpasses.

Anyone with any information on the accident is urged to call Champaign County Crimestoppers at (217) 373-TIPS.