

BRIEFS

Chamber of commerce endorses Osterman

SCOTTSDALE — The Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce on Monday endorsed City Councilman Kevin Osterman for the May 16 council runoff election.

The chamber's political committee had endorsed Osterman and his runoff opponent, Councilman Bob Littlefield, in the March 14 general election for three council seats.

PV council to address budget, more at session

PARADISE VALLEY — The Paradise Valley Town Council offers a work-study session today to talk about budget-related issues.

The special meeting, open to the public, will be at 3 p.m. in the Police Department auditorium, 6433 E. Lincoln Drive.

The council will receive an update on the town's five-year financial forecast, review the overall budget, and discuss specific topics, including budget proposals related to fire and emergency medical service, police administrative staffing, clerical support for Town Hall, market salary adjustments and group insurance costs.

Jury weighs 4 factors in man's sentencing

MESA — Jurors now have two more factors to consider before ruling whether a man should be sentenced to death in the murder of a Scottsdale man five years ago.

The jury found that the

murder of James Panzarella in March 2001 was depraved and motivated by money. A previous jury found Shawn Patrick Lynch, 44, guilty of first-degree murder and said the killing was cruel and heinous.

The case came to a standstill when the first jury hung on the death penalty. The latest ruling leaves the second jury with four factors to consider in sentencing Lynch.

Panzarella's throat was slashed in a robbery at his Scottsdale home. Police said Lynch and co-defendant Michael Sehwan took a gun and stereo equipment. Sehwan is scheduled for trial in August.

Parents raise concerns after scuffle, lecture

SCOTTSDALE — An after-school fight has some Mohave Middle School parents concerned about the safety of their children. Five Mohave students were suspended Friday after they were involved in a fight at Chaparral Park, said Keith Sterling, Scottsdale Unified School District spokesman. About 50 students had gathered to witness the fight. A teacher driving by broke it up.

Mohave Principal Chris Sawyer talked with students about safety on campus. But some parents expressed concern that they weren't notified about the fight or the lecture. "(The principal) was comfortable at that point that a letter didn't go home with parents," Sterling said. "In retrospect, our goal is to always keep parents informed. In this case, no letter was sent, but should've been."

Wednesday in Scottsdale

What's happening

Boomerz Job Fair.

What it's about

Job fair designed for baby boomers who seek challenging jobs commensurate with their experience. Featuring more than 50 employers. Information: www.sc.maricopa.edu/boomerz or (480) 423-6188.

When/where

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Galleria Corporate Center, 4343 N. Scottsdale Road.

Firms pursue baby boomers for workforce

By Carol Sowers
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

SCOTTSDALE — About 70 employers from around the Valley hope to recruit mature workers during a Wednesday job fair sponsored by a group aptly named Scottsdale Boomerz.

Bob Roth, general partner of Cypress Home Care Solutions, a home-health-aid service in Phoenix, says his company will be there hoping to hire what he calls "mature workers" ages 40 and up.

"They are our most dependable and compassionate workers," Roth said, adding that the age group makes up half of his 150-employee workforce.

The job fair is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Galleria Corporate Center, 4343 N. Scottsdale Road.

Cindy Cooke, director of Scottsdale Boomerz, says any age person is welcome at the job fair. But she said the group's goal is to connect baby boomers, the oldest turning 60 this year, with jobs.

"It is important that they stay engaged," she said.

Many employers, she said, have told her that they prize mature workers because they have a wide range of experience and are willing to work flexible hours.

"Many don't want full-time jobs," she said. "They want to travel or spend time with their grandchildren."

Boomerz, a 9-month-old coalition of several groups, also connects the 60-plus set to volunteer jobs.

Many, she said, want to use their expertise to do short projects for non-profit organizations and go on to something else.

"They don't want to just stuff envelopes," Cook said. "They want meaningful work."