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SECTION 5R

Trauma center's work in spotlight

By Kate Nolan

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SCOTTSDALE — Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn, the Valley's only Level 1 trauma center east of Phoenix, treats nearly 3,600 trauma patients a year.

Level 1 trauma care provides comprehensive treatment for seriously injured patients. May is National Trauma Awareness Month.

"Trauma injury has been called the neglected disease of modern society," said Shelly Silvers, a Scottsdale Healthcare trauma nurse who focuses on prevention.

A leading preventable cause of trauma is traffic accidents. Recent data show 140,000 car crashes result in 1,300 deaths and 68,000 injuries in Arizona annually. "Injury prevention is the most logical approach to reducing death and disability," Silvers said.

Using seat belts and not using a cell-phone while driving will substantially lower risks of serious injury, she said.