

BYRNE'S BURDEN
Top three issues
facing UA's new AD
SPORTS



New rules advance

On concealed guns, migrant 'trespass' **PAGE A2**



Arizona Daily Star

SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877 • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010 • REACHING 238,700 READERS WEEKDAYS

75 cents plus tax • One dollar outside Southern Arizona

FINAL

City plans tax hike to pay debt

Increases in next 2 years would cut \$18M shortfall in fund that pays claims

By Rob O'Dell
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

City property owners could soon see a big tax increase to start paying down an \$18 million deficit in the city's self-insurance fund — or at least to keep it from get-

ting any bigger.

The City Council greenlighted a proposed "tort liability charge" Tuesday. Although state law limits the tax levy from going up more than 2 percent without voter approval, there is a provision that allows a larger increase if the money is used to pay off legal claims.

On Tuesday, the council discussed increases that would add nearly \$2 to the tax bill for a \$200,000 property after July 1, and almost \$12.50 for fiscal 2011-12. The council

WHAT IT WOULD COST:

- City property taxes on a \$200,000 house:
- Right now: \$186.74
- Tentative increase beginning July 1: \$1.90
- Tentative increase July 1, 2012: \$12.42

amounts to a 6.6 percent boost just to help fix the self-insurance deficit. A 2 percent standard increase or any increase to pay off voter-approved bonds would be on top of that. Council members were told Phoenix and Scottsdale already charge their residents in a similar way.

The amount of additional tax is based on how much the city had to pay out in claims for a previous year.

tentatively approved the proposal 7-0, but it will still need formal approval later as part of a new budget.

For city homeowners, the 2012 increase

See **COUNCIL, A4**

BABY SPEECH STUDIED AT UA



KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

For baby Kadence Lange, it's some good crawl time, but for UA graduate assistant Amanda Van Vianen, holding the video camera, it's an opportunity to study Kadence's speech development. Kadence is fitted with a microphone and nasal cannula to assess the functioning of the velopharynx, a valve critical to speech.

Gauging a babble benchmark

By Becky Pallack
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Baby Kadence just said "gah-aw-awga-bah."

To you, it's just baby babble. To a team of University of Arizona researchers, it could be a sign that the dangly flap at the back of the throat is working properly.

Jeannette "Jenny" Hoit and her team are studying 60 babies to find a time range for when a baby starts using the

flap. That could someday help speech-language pathologists determine whether a baby's speech is developing normally.

The National Institutes of Health gave a \$1.5 million grant to Hoit's team to study the velopharynx — that is, the valve made of skin and muscle that your doctor is looking at when you open up and say "aaah."

At first, baby sounds come out of both the mouth and nose, but when

they start making short words like "papa," the valve gets to be critical, Hoit explained. The valve must close to allow a baby to build pressure in his or her mouth to speak.

"After all these years of research, we

See **BABY, A4**

SN On StarNet: Read Becky Pallack's blog on higher education in Tucson at go.azstarnet.com/campuscorrespondent

Foothills dist. first to drop free full-day kindergarten

All-day program available with tuition at \$4,000 a year

By Phil Villarreal
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Anticipating state funding cuts, Catalina Foothills Unified School District became the first district in the city to eliminate free full-day kindergarten next school year at its four elementary schools and will charge \$4,000 a year for a child to participate in a full-day program.

In a letter dated March 10, the district sent parents of prospective kindergartners letters saying kids will be divided into morning (8 a.m. to 11 a.m.) and afternoon (noon to 3 p.m.) sessions. Parents can enroll their kids in the other session, dubbed Kindergarten Plus, for \$4,000 a year or \$420 a month for 10 months. The first payment for both plans is due May 1, and a \$70 registration fee is due April 1.

Kindergarten Plus classes will be staffed by a certified teacher and a classroom assistant.

According to Joan Marrs, the district Community Schools Director, the district will use the tuition to pay the teacher and aide, and some money will go toward the school to cover the use of the library and

See **KINDERGARTEN, A4**

SN On StarNet: Find education-related resources such as on-campus crime stats, charter and private school listings, and the Student of the Week feature at azstarnet.com/education

Furloughs to shut state offices on five days before end of year

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Don't count on getting anything you need at a state agency on July 23. It will be a state holiday, so to speak.

OK, not really a holiday. But state offices will be shut just as tight as if it were. The same goes for Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Nov. 26 and Dec. 23.

All are either Fridays or holiday weekends when state workers will be sent home on mandatory furlough days without pay. The Legislature has mandat-

ed a 5 percent cut in salary costs, and the Department of Administration is meeting that goal through a mix of furlough days and eliminating the performance-pay raise that state workers got several years ago.

Rather than staggering days off so offices could remain open to the public, the department chose to close everything at once because, spokesman Alan Ecker said, shutting down buildings entirely means not

See **FURLOUGHS, A4**

DID YOU KNOW

The city of Tucson also ordered furloughs this year, but it's handling them differently, allowing departments to close on different days or stagger time off so as to never shut down entirely. Most recently, the Tucson Convention Center ticket office is set to close on April 2 for a mandatory furlough day. Tickets to a TCC event still can be bought at Fry's Marketplace Ticketmaster locations, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone, 1-800-745-3000.



CHARLES DHARAPAK / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALL AGLOW OVER HEALTH CARE

President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden are happy as can be in the East Room of the White House before the president signed the health-care bill on Tuesday. See stories on Pages A13 and A14.

COMING SUNDAY

Rivers run through it

We tell you where to find flowing streams, even in the desert



LEE ENTERPRISES | Vol. 169, No. 83
For home delivery call 1-800-695-4492;
e-mail: circulation@tucson.com



INSIDE TODAY'S DAILY STAR

BusinessA9 LotteryA2 Advice, comics, puzzles, Editorial.....A11 Tucson & RegionA2 TV listings.....Classified

Rincon principal's contract not renewed

TUSD board's action means school leader won't return next year. **Page A8**

Gadabout robbed for second time

North-side salon hit less than week after midtown site was robbed. **Page A4**

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 71 / Low: 42
Sunny skies here again