

# Budget balancing actually involves a cut or two

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Santa Anna, whose name will be forever tied to the Alamo in Texas. Gov. Pérez made things worse by snubbing Santa Fe's prominent families.

Santa Anna had centralized control, so outlying political subdivisions like New Mexico had less control locally. New Mexico's treasury was nearly empty; its only source of revenue was the tax on merchants arriving on the Santa Fe Trail.

One of Pérez's tasks was to raise taxes, a measure as unpopular 172 years ago as it is today. Pérez's political enemies began circulating rumors that the governor intended to levy taxes on sheep and pigs, woodcutters, shepherds who drove their flocks through Santa Fe, fandangos and even on sex between husbands and wives.

Pérez didn't take the unrest seriously until it erupted into an armed revolt. After a lopsided battle, Pérez and his few supporters retreated to Santa Fe, and Pérez fled south, where he was captured and beheaded.

The rebels used his head in a game of kickball. Then Manuel Armijo raised an army in Albuquerque, put down the rebellion, and re-established himself as governor.

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Fast forward to 2009: The American Federation of Teachers New Mexico, New Mexico

Voices for Children and a few lawmakers have called for a rollback on personal income tax cuts for the wealthiest New Mexicans (\$295,000 or more in annual income), capital gains tax cuts and "tax loopholes for big out-of-state corporations."

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he won't repeal his personal income tax cuts.

This is when budget balancing gets interesting. It usually involves voodoo accounting, robbing Peter to pay Paul, miraculous discoveries of money in obscure accounts, bargains with the devil, and some actual cutting.

The governor's plans, so far: Cut agency spending by 3 percent, don't touch public school spending but bolster it with \$91 million in stimulus funds, cash in short-term bonded capital projects, delay increases to retirement and health-care authority funds, cancel some capital projects, and dip into cash balances for \$40 million.

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**Sherry Robinson**

*Commentary*

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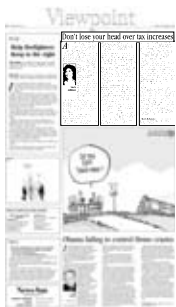
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**Sherry Robinson** is a New Mexico News Services columnist. She can be reached at [robinson@nmia.com](mailto:robinson@nmia.com).

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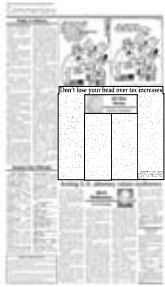
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## All She Wrote

By Sherry Robinson

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