More must be done to prevent alcohol, drug addiction in Taos

Yale Jones

The New Mexico Legislative Health and Human Services Committee focused on drug addiction issues at its meeting in May 2016. Among those who testified were Rep. Nick L. Salazar, D-40, and Sen. Mikelatio, D-NM, both of whom have had their constituents affected by drug addiction. Salazar has called for a "war on drugs," stating that 2014 was his worst year yet in that regard. The problem of drug addiction is one that must be addressed, as it is a common problem in many communities across the country.

Drug addiction is a complex issue that affects individuals, families, and communities. It is a disease that requires treatment and support, not punishment and criminalization. Effective treatment and rehabilitation programs are available, and some remarkable and committed individuals and families are working hard, but funding is needed. We must do more to prevent alcohol, drug addiction in Taos.

The committee’s response: Everyone should have access to treatment services, but individuals, families, and communities are not always able to afford these services due to insurance restrictions and lack of funding. Perhaps, they suggested, the state could find a funding vehicle to ensure that the committee knew all of these state Brickell, D-20, and Rep. Ben R. Luján, D-3, also of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, echoed Salazar’s sentiments and called for stronger laws and more funding for treatment programs. The need for more funding is crucial as the state continues to face challenges in providing adequate treatment services for individuals and families affected by drug addiction.

Finding common ground in debate on wilderness expansion

The recent exchange over proposed additions to the Pecos Wilderness, of which I have been part, is a good illustration of how we can sometimes get into spirited debates and how we can come together to find common ground.

First, in our debates over the merits of wilderness, the question of who owns the wilderness is the issue. In the case of the Pecos Wilderness, the wilderness in question is a part of the public land. It is part of the continental U.S., it belongs to the people and is a national treasure, is a part of our land resource and an integral part of our ecological system, nor has it responded to the needs of the affected communities.

John Miles

The Meridith family and the Meridith Foundation have long been advocates for wilderness protection in New Mexico and the West. We believe that the proposed additions to the Pecos Wilderness are a good fit for the wilderness system and will enhance the ecological value of the area.

The Meridith Foundation supports the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the idea that wilderness areas should be protected for future generations. We believe that this is a good time to consider adding these areas to the wilderness system. The Meridith Foundation has worked closely with the BLM and other federal agencies to ensure that the wilderness additions are managed in a way that is consistent with the Wilderness Act.

The Meridith Foundation is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure that the wilderness additions are managed in a way that is consistent with the Wilderness Act. We believe that this is an important opportunity to protect our natural heritage for future generations.