

Young people spend too much time watching television

On average, Americans spend 2.8 hours watching television daily. We surveyed 80 students at Mason High School asking them the number of hours they watch television daily, as well as the number of hours they spend doing homework. On average, we found that students spend 1.6 hours a day watching television, and only about 1.2 hours doing their homework.

The amount of time that teenagers spend watching television has definitely become a problem. They are wasting time on television instead of more important things, such as homework or physical activities. Teenagers are becoming more apt to pick up a remote than a text book, and that is a serious problem.

Although this is a great concern for teenagers, there is something that you can do to help. Turn off the television, and stop buying into the extras, such as Netflix. Join the others who are trying to break this terrible streak. Log onto stoptv.org to get facts about how television is impacting you.

*Amber Dockter
Leslie*

Legislature and governor will hurt charities with changes

I am a member and current president of the Williamston Sunrise Rotary Club. As a service organization, we raise money to benefit our community. For the past seven years, our club has participated in a state-sponsored program that provides charities the opportunity to share revenue from "poker rooms." Our members work at these events and our club receives revenue for our efforts. All of the revenue we have received has been given to charitable projects in our community.

Proposed rule changes, advanced by the Michigan Gaming Control Board, will essentially terminate the program and many charitable organizations throughout our state will lose

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revenue. The Legislature and the governor are considering the changes being advanced by the Michigan Gaming Control Board. I hope other citizens will support protecting this important source of revenue for Michigan's charities and will make their opposition to these new rules known to our elected state officials.

*Merlin Hopkins
president, Williamston Sunrise Rotary Club
Williamston*

Writer should have checked his math before complaint

I think W.J. Markham (Letters, Nov. 11) needs a math lesson. In his letter, he calls President Obama a liar. The president said that fewer than 5 percent of Americans would be notified that their current health insurance would expire on Dec. 31. Markham quotes an estimate of 10 million people who fall into this category, and claims Obama's 5 percent figure is a lie. The U.S. population as of 2012 was 313.9 million people. The 10 million people in Markham's letter represent 3.19 percent of the U.S. population. Last time I checked, 3 percent was less than 5 percent. So, indeed, Obama is not lying at all.

To be sure, 10 million is a lot of people. But if you're going to call someone a liar, please check your math first.

*Melissa Mackey
Lansing*

Poll on minimum wage used leading questions

I am writing to set the record straight as it relates to an assertion made by Lonnie Scott (LSJ, Nov. 10) that "not only do most Michigan residents support raising the minimum wage, but so do most small business owners." Scott cites a poll conducted by Greenburg Quinlan Rosner Research. That poll was conducted on behalf of a group called the "Small

Business Majority," which is a well-known front group for progressive policy screeds. While it poses as an impartial survey, in reality it's stuffed with ideologically-leading questions designed specifically to gin up support for a minimum wage hike.

Here at the Small Business Association of Michigan, we represent more than 21,000 small business owners, right here in our state. Our policy positions are guided directly by knowledgeable member input, not fake polling. We continue to strongly oppose raising the minimum wage because it kills job opportunities and suppresses economic activity in our communities. History shows that raising the government-set minimum wage hurts precisely those it is purported to help.

*Rob Fowler, president and CEO
Small Business Association of Michigan
Lansing*

Nation harms its world leadership with drone attacks

What has happened to our national conscience? We used to think of our country representing high ideals: the protection of civil rights and all life. Last week, it was the U.S. being criticized by human rights organizations for the collateral loss of civilian lives (including children) from drone attacks and spying on our allies. Not only are the drone attacks taking the lives of innocent people, we are going into another country's air space to do so.

How would Americans react if it was Pakistan entering our airspace or our allies spying on us? And who is it that has authorized our government to execute these drone attacks? Is there any one of us who sufficiently trust our politicians and/or military to give such kill orders? Have we really become this arrogant? If we really want to believe ourselves to represent "good," we need to also monitor our own behavior — and not simply the rest of the world.

*Larry Nakfoor
Grand Ledge*