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Opinion

Voice of the people Nov. 9th

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Author way off base about state of USPS

There were so many inaccuracies commentary by Doug Badow, "U.S. Postal Service Drowning in Debt and Out of Lifelines" that I don't know where to begin.

I'll start with his assertion that the average postal worker makes \$83,500 a year.

I am in the most common job classification, at the top step, (with 29 years seniority), and I earn \$53,000 a year. Postal workers make a living wage, but not an exorbitant wage.

Second, the whole notion of the Postal Service drowning in debt is fabricated. Congress passed a law requiring the Postal Service — unlike any other federal agency or business — to pre-fund retiree health benefits 75 years into the future in a brief 10-year period. Without this harmful legislation, the Postal Service would not be in the red financially. On this issue, the union and management are in agreement that the law should be changed.

Finally, Badow points out there are 26,000 post offices that are losing money. Quite frankly, that's something that I, as a postal worker, am proud of. The Postal Service was never intended to show a profit — it is a service to the American people. Residents of small communities should have the same convenience of going to a local post office as someone in a large city, even if that community's post office loses money.

As a whole, the Postal Service generally breaks even while serving every citizen and every mailing address in the United States. That is something that private companies would not be interested in doing — at least not at the uniform rate of 44 cents per letter.

I am a member and officer in the American Postal Workers Union, and our contract negotiations are under way.

Every time our contract comes up, the anti-worker forces rev up their propaganda machine. I believe Badow's column was part of this effort and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Paul Felton

Pontiac

Author should have offered opinion without offending

I have to say that I read with amazement the guest opinion of Rodney Carey — "Foreclosure Sales Must Continue For Market To Recover."

His arrogance and sense of entitlement permeated the article. He describes foreclosed homes in the metropolitan area as being "abandoned" and in need of "repairs and rebuilding," and foreclosed homeowners as being "those who didn't, wouldn't, or couldn't pay their mortgages." Carey could have expressed his "professional" opinion without disrespecting foreclosed homeowners who have lost more than I hope he and his family ever lose. But he chose not to.