

Our Readers Speak: CCCS should be recognized for job creation in Butte

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It is about time someone stands up and recognizes the contribution that CCCS and Mike Thatcher have made to Butte.

If it weren't for Mike Thatcher and CCCS, my family and I would no longer be living in Butte. The critics of CCCS should go and check the records of displaced MRI workers, laid-off Montana Power and Touch America employees who stayed in Butte because of the effort of Mike Thatcher and the CCCS corporation to get them jobs.

Thatcher is a Butte guy and wears it proudly on his sleeve even though every time he tries to bring more business to Butte he gets blasted because of CCCS being in corrections.

There are many times that Thatcher could have pulled up stakes from Butte and the hundreds of jobs that have been created in Butte, Anaconda and Deer Lodge area to a more corrections friendly town, but he has remained true to Butte.

I stayed with CCCS for less than one year and was lucky enough to get on with the school district as a teacher. You would think a guy who made it a point to hire me and keep me in Butte would be mad about leaving in less than a year. Mike took me to lunch, thanked me for my service to CCCS and wished me the best at the school district and told me if I ever needed a job again let him know.

Now people are complaining that there are no jobs for the teenagers in town because all of the pre-release people are taking the jobs. The businesses are hiring pre-release people because they can not get people to come in and do the service-related jobs that they offer. There are plenty of jobs out there if a person is willing to work including our teenagers.

Give Thatcher and CCCS some credit to their contribution to this community. If there is a business in Butte that gives back more to Butte than CCCS, I would like to see it.

And by the way, they do not let sex offenders into the pre-release center, just for the public information.