

Impacting Kittitas County

Business & Industry NEWS

WA employers earn \$35 million tax break for 2009

OLYMPIA – Tax-filing season is bringing \$35 million of news to Washington employers who hired certain out-of-state job seekers in 2009.

That's the amount of Work Opportunity Tax Credits more than 4,300 employers in Washington can deduct on their 2009 federal income taxes.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit provides an incentive for employers to hire people who need the most help finding work. These include the disabled, ex-felons, food-stamp recipients, people on welfare and recipients of Supplemental Security Income. And beginning in 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act added two more groups to the eligibility pool: unemployed veterans and those aged 16 to 24 who were not in school, not working and lacked the skills to get a job.

Altogether, Washington employers will get tax credits for 13,100 eligible hires last year.

Employers can reduce their taxes by up to \$2,400 for each new qualified adult hired, up to \$1,200 for each youth

hired for a summer job, \$4,800 for each disabled veteran, and up to \$9,000 over two years for each qualifying long-term welfare recipient who is hired.

The state Employment Security Dept. is responsible for processing employers' applications for the tax credit. In 2009, the department approved more than 13,000 applications.

"We've seen a significant increase in applications since the program was expanded last year," said Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee. "The tax credit encourages and rewards employers for taking a chance and putting disadvantaged people to work."

Employers who are interested in earning the tax credit in 2010 should visit their local WorkSource office or call 800-669-9271, then submit an application to the Washington State Employment Security Department within 28 days after the new employee starts work. Employment Security works with other governmental agencies to certify the eligibility of hired workers.

Businesses certified for the credit must complete IRS Form 5884 when submitting their federal income taxes.

• PEOPLE IN BUSINESS •

It's all about the joy of healing

CLE ELUM – After practicing in other office locations in Cle Elum, licensed Massage Practitioner Deena Bramme settled into a new office on 1st Street, in September 2009, inside what locals refer to as 'the log cabin.' Bramme is a massage therapist and the artistically frosted sign on her office door reads Body Balancing Massage.

"I've been a resident here since 2000," she said. "I graduated from Cle Elum High School, Class of 1972. My husband is from here. My 28-year-old son was raised here. He's an apprentice electrician."



therapy. A couple years after I got into that, I wanted to broaden my skill set, so I took up massage."

Bramme practices two kinds of Massage: Myo Fascial and StrainCounterStrain.

Myo Fascial focuses on fascia, the tough, fibrous, connective tissue in every human body that, simply put, holds us together. Bramme said fascia, throughout the body, is all interconnected.

"If fascia is bound up or stuck," she explained, "a variety of health issues can crop up. The tunnel in carpal tunnel, for example, is fascia."

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



SWIFTWATER CELLARS WINERY on Roper Rider Golf Course, Suncadia, is nearly closed in. The \$10M project required 3,400 cubic feet of concrete, much of which will be grained and stained to look like wood.

N.K.C. TRIBUNE/Jim Fossett photo

