

Business & Employment Today

C8 — Star Beacon

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Oh, baby! Shop at Stages Consignment for everything baby and expectant mom need

By ELLEN KOLMAN
Staff Writer

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SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP — Anyone who has a baby in their life needs to check out Stages Consignment store at 2130 W. Prospect,

across from El Grande Steak House.

Owner Kim Wassong, of Erie, Pa., has done her homework, and her store is fully stocked, organized and ready for customers.

"I worked at a consignment store in Erie for two

years, and I did research on Ashtabula and felt a baby-oriented consignment store would be appropriate for this area," Wassong said.

Even though Stages Consignment has been open only since Aug. 18, business is booming as word of the new store circulates.

"I came here with 11 consignors, and I am up to 83 now," she said. "There have been tons and tons of people here, already."

Stages Consignment store is filled with gently used items for baby and moms-to-be. These items include clothes for boys and girls from sizes zero to 3 months, to toddler clothing, and kids clothing up to sizes 10 to 12; snowsuits, boots, shoes, warm outer wear, sleepers, blankets, bibs, accessories, toys, videos, cribs, sheets, comforters, strollers, high chairs, "exersaucers," bouncy seats, walkers, booster seats, potty seats, Christmas apparel, books and games, mobiles, diaper bags, bathtubs, baby gates and much more.

"I also take 'wish lists' so if I don't have an item right now, I can call the customer if one does come in," Wassong said.

The only item Wassong does not sell is car seats.

"I am not allowed to sell used car seats, due to gov-



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon
KIM WASSONG, owner of Stages Consignment Store on Route 20 in Saybrook Township, displays consignment items for sale at her business.

ernment safety standards," she said.

Wassong also strictly follows guidelines put out by the Ohio Department of Commerce, including sanitizing all bedding and any item that a baby's body comes into contact with, like a stroller.

"All of our toys are clean, and when I say gently used, I mean it. I am very particular about what I accept," she said. "Some items come brand new."

Wassong also does a check with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Web site on every toy and piece of equipment

that comes in, to make sure there has not been a recall on the item.

"I am very careful, especially after that lead scare a couple of years ago," she said.

Organization is another feature of this consignment store. Wassong's system is completely computerized. Every sales ticket on every item sold in the store has the consignor's number, item number, description and price.

"This way, there is no confusion, and (the) consignor knows exactly what is happening with their items," she said.

It does not cost anything to consign items at Stages. Potential consignors need only to call for an appointment with Wassong. Every consignor will receive 40 to 50 percent of each item sold.

"This is even recycling and a way to make money on your gently used items," she said. "From a customer's point of view, our prices are very reasonable and fair for like-new items."

For further information, contact Stages Consignment (440-998-0850).




WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon
KIM WASSONG, owner of Stages Consignment Store on Route 20 in Saybrook Township, displays items in front of her business.

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Date/Time	Seminar/Workshop
Tues., Nov. 3 1-3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Writing an Effective Resume" A carefully prepared resume provides a direct path from your goals as job seeker to the workforce needs of employers.
Weds., Nov. 4 9-11 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Keys To Home Ownership" If you can afford to pay rent; you can afford a house payment! Learn how to make a home purchase possible. Presented by Kathy Sandella, Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County.
Mon., Nov. 9 1-3 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Job Search and Interview Process" "Yes, there are jobs out there! Find out how to find them - then ACE the interview!"
Tues., Nov. 10 1-3 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Ohio Benefit Bank" Learn about this web-based computer program that connects low and moderate-income Ohioans with access to work supports such as tax credits and public benefits. Presented by Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County.
Friday., Nov. 13 10 AM- Noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Why Should I Go Back To School?" Career vs. Job, Earning Potential, You can do it and this is how! Presented by staff from KSU-Ashtabula.
Friday., Nov. 13 11 AM- 12:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Basic Email" View a demonstration of how to register for and use web-based email providers to access accounts anywhere there's an internet connection. Learn to login, compose, send, and receive email messages. Then practice in the Resource Room. For basic computer users.

Ashtabula Board of County Commissioners - Grantee

Eric Senor graduates from Ohio bank training program

COLUMBUS — Eric G. Senor, Andover Bank's Andover branch manager, graduated from the 2009 Ohio Bankers League Bank Management School.

Senor was one of 26 bankers who completed the intensive one-week program in September.

The comprehensive school, established in 1955, is one of the longest-standing educational traditions in the Ohio banking industry. The program offers bankers from across Ohio the opportunity to enhance their skills in all areas of bank operations and management, and helps them understand the impact that changes in the economy have on a bank's profitability.

"Today, many bankers are trained in a specific function rather than as a generalist," said Stacy Schindler, OBL manager of professional schools. "But those who have potential to rise within the organization need to have a clear understanding of the bank as a whole," she said. "The expanded knowledge and abilities gained at the OBL Bank Management School allow bankers to better serve both their customers and their bank."

OBL, the state's largest financial industry trade association, represents 220 commercial banks and savings institutions.

Dollar lower on manufacturing, housing reports

By ERIN CONROY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The dollar edged down against the euro and other currencies Monday as stronger-than-expected reports on manufacturing and housing eased concerns about the global economy's recovery, while markets look ahead to this week's slew of central bank meetings.

The manufacturing industry grew at the fastest pace in October since April 2006, according to the Institute for Supply Management. The ISM manufacturing index clocked in at 55.7, much better than the 53 economists had expected. It was the third month in a row the index came in above 50, which indicates growth.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Realtors said pending home sales increased for the eighth straight month in September. The index rose 6.1 percent from August, to 110.1. It was the highest reading since December 2006 and more than 21 percent above a year ago. Economists had expected the index would be level at 103.8.

Also Monday, the Commerce Department said construction spending increased 0.8 percent in September, matching the gain in August. Economists had been expecting a 0.3 percent decline.

Investors tend to sell the dollar in favor of riskier, higher-yielding currencies and stocks when strong

economic reports, corporate earnings or other developments imply the economy is improving. Data or events that signal economic weakness tend to benefit the dollar.

The 16-nation euro edged up to \$1.4753 in late New York trading from \$1.4730 late Friday. Earlier in the session, it bought \$1.4845, while last week it touched a 14-month high of \$1.5061 against the dollar.

"All in all, we expect the euro versus the dollar to trade mostly between \$1.4650 and \$1.4950 in the coming days," UniCredit said in a research note Monday.

Meanwhile, the British pound fell to \$1.6383 from \$1.6447 on news Britain's bailed-out banks may have to sell more of their businesses in return for being rescued. The dollar rose to buy 90.35 Japanese yen from 89.98 yen.

In other New York trading, the dollar fell slightly to 1.0236 Swiss francs from 1.0252 francs late Friday, and slipped to 1.0791 Canadian dollars from 1.0797.

The Bank of England, the European Central Bank and the Federal Reserve will hold rate-setting meetings this week. Last month, the ECB and the BoE both left interest rates unchanged and indicated they would not increase soon. Expectations for the Fed to raise rates vary, but most economists see next summer as the most likely time.