

## Checkers restaurant off to good start

By AMANDA SCHNUGG  
EAGLE Contributor

Checkers, the newest fast food chain to come to Oxford, opened its doors in late September to hordes of cheeseburger-loving people — some who even camped out over night on the day the store opened.

"We're really excited about being in Oxford," said Dwight Barker, who owns the store along with his business partners — Anwar Aman, Buddy Kheraj and Rafiq Devji who make up Tri State Restaurants LLC.

"We chose to open in Oxford because we knew it was going to be a great town to be a part of."



BRUCE NEWMAN

Checkers, the newest fast-food chain to come to Oxford, is located at the intersection of University Avenue and South Lamar.

### First in state

Barker and his partners own 15 Checkers in the greater Memphis area. Oxford is the first Checkers they've opened in Mississippi.

"We're looking to expand more in north Mississippi and Arkansas," said Barker, who is originally from Cleveland, and the former vice president of operations for Checkers. "We are also looking to grow more around here in Oxford and Batesville."

Customers may notice the right side of Checkers is still empty.

Barker said he and his partners are still deciding what

to do with that half of the building.

"We aren't going to expand Checkers," he said. "It will be a different business but we're just not sure yet."

### Locals hired

Checkers was able to hire 60 new employees, all local residents of Oxford. Crew member Kendria Huggis is grateful for the job she was able to secure.

"I was looking for a job for over three months and some

companies would tell me to come for training but it would always fall through," Huggis said. "They (Checkers) called within two days to start training."

Huggis said the work environment has been a great one to work in so far, and has surpassed her expectations. Although they serve the typical fair of fast food — hamburgers and fries — they have a different environment and will make everyone feel welcome.

The Checkers Company first started in 1986 in Mobile, Ala. By 1999, Checkers had opened and successfully maintained over 200 restaurants in the Midwestern and Southeastern states. That year they also merged with another company, Rally's, and now have over 800 stores.

The Oxford location's hours are Sunday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 a.m.

— news@oxfordeagle.com

## Fitts elected to Baptist board

BMH-NM COMMUNICATIONS

Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi recently elected Beth Fitts as the newest member to the Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi Board of Directors.



Fitts

"I am delighted, as are the other members of the board, to have Beth join our team," stated Don Hutson, CEO and administrator of Baptist North Mississippi. "Beth brings a unique community viewpoint and a hands-on perspective that will enhance the health care landscape of Oxford and Lafayette County."

Fitts is the director of the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association and is the coordinator of the Ole Miss Student Journalism Workshop and the Mississippi Association Advisor Workshop. She also serves as the Mississippi Director of the Journalism Education Association and is on the executive board of the Southern Interscholastic Press Association.

"I have always been supportive of the hospital and feel privileged to be a part of an organization that does so many great things for our community," said Fitts. "Oxford is fortunate to have high-quality health care, outstanding medical staff and cutting edge technology for a town of its size."

In November 2008, Fitts received the National Scholastic Press Association Pioneer Award, the highest honor given to a journalism educator. She was named an All-American Adviser by NSPA and received the Southern Interscholastic Press Association Distinguished Service Award.

"I am excited to be able to share my career capabilities in a way that benefits the community where I live," Fitts said. "The commitment to the communities the hospital serves is commendable and I look forward to assisting Baptist North Mississippi at furthering its mission."

## Leaders: Asia-Pacific free trade vital to recovery

By ELAINE KURTENBACH  
AP Business Writer

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — Opening markets to freer trade is crucial to a lasting global economic recovery, Asia-Pacific leaders agreed Sunday as they wrapped up a summit that produced tangible progress toward a U.S.-backed regional trade bloc.

The plan to forge a Pacific free trade area got a big boost Sunday when leaders of Canada and Mexico joined Japan in expressing support for a deal that has received a cool reception from rising power China.

The news was a coup for President Barack Obama, who made progress on the pact one of his top priorities for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, held in his home state of Hawaii. It comes after Japan,

the world's No. 3 economy, said Friday it wants to join the nine nations already involved in talks on what has been dubbed the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

In their summit declaration, leaders of the 21-member APEC said the region is now the vanguard for global growth thanks to previous progress in forging closer economic ties and free trade.

### Group strengthened

The meeting at a time of uncertainty for the world economy has strengthened the group's commitment to cooperation, the statement said. Leaders also agreed on measures to promote green-based economic growth to ensure energy security.

"We continued our efforts to try to get the global economy to grow faster, the strong and balanced growth that we need," Obama said in a closing speech.

The balmy weather for the annual

APEC gathering at a resort on the west side of the Hawaiian island of Oahu contrasted with deepening pessimism over the economic outlook as the leaders finished a day of talks on how to spur growth and create jobs. With Europe again on the brink of recession, Asia's vital role as a driver of global growth has gained even greater urgency.

IMF Director Christine Lagarde attended the summit, briefing the APEC leaders on the latest developments in Europe. The International Monetary Fund will play a key role in coming months in overseeing efforts by Italy, and other ailing economies that use the euro common currency, to rein in debt.

Europe's quandary was among the wide range of issues that the leaders tackled in their one-day meeting.

See TRADE on Page 6A

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## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS			
<b>NYSE</b> ▲ 7,576.18 +23.95	<b>AMEX</b> ▲ 2,305.68 +6.97	<b>NASDAQ</b> ▼ 2,678.75 -7.40	
<b>GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)</b>	<b>GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)</b>	<b>GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)</b>	
<b>Losers (\$2 or more)</b>	<b>Losers (\$2 or more)</b>	<b>Losers (\$2 or more)</b>	
<b>MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)</b>	<b>MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)</b>	<b>MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)</b>	
<b>DIARY</b>	<b>DIARY</b>	<b>DIARY</b>	

WEEKLY DOW JONES											
Dow Jones Industrials 85.15 101.79 -389.24 112.85 259.89											
Close: 12,153.68											
1-week change: 170.44 (1.4%)											
MON TUES WED THUR FRI											
STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST											
Stock Footnotes: g=Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars; if = Late filing with SEC; n = New in past 52 weeks; pf = Preferred; rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year; n = Right to buy security at a specified price; s = Stock has been at least 20 percent within the last year; un = Units; vj = In bankruptcy or receivership; wd = When distributed; wi = When issued; wt = Warrants; Mutual Fund Footnotes: b = Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets; d = Deferred sales charge; or redemption fee; f = Front load (sales charges); m = Multiple fees are charged; NA = not available; p = previous day's net asset value; s = fund split shares during the week; v = fund paid a distribution during the week; Gainers and Losers must be worth at least \$2 to be listed in tables at left; Most Actives must be worth at least \$1. Volume in hundreds of shares. Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.											

STOCK MARKET INDEXES									
MUTUAL FUNDS									
CA - Conservative Allocation; CI - Intermediate-Term Bond; ES - Europe Stock; FB - Foreign Large Growth; FG - Foreign Large Growth; FV - Foreign Large Value; H - World Allocation; LB - Large Blend; LG - Large Growth; LV - Large Value; MA - Moderate Allocation; MB - Mid-Cap Blend; MW - Mid-Cap Value; SH - Specialty-Health; WS - World Stock; Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested; Rank: How fund performed vs others with same objective; A is in top 20%; E in bottom 20%; Min Inv: Minimum \$ needed to invest in fund; Source: Morningstar.									