

Far North Wild Oats to close its doors next month

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Get it while you can — soy milk, all-natural cereals, tofu. If you shop at the Wild Oats in the Far North Shopping Center at San Mateo and Academy, you're losing a source. The store is expected to close by May 7.

After Whole Foods purchased Wild Oats in August, regional Whole Foods

president Will Paradise assured Albuquerqueans no Wild Oats stores would close. He also expected some new hiring.

New hires are unlikely now, but nobody is losing a job either, according to Joe Reed, assistant store team leader at the Carlisle Whole Foods, formerly a Wild Oats. "We're absorbing 10 people," he said, "and the

Academy/Wyoming store is taking 20. One person took a severance package to retire."

The Wyoming/Academy store has always been a Whole Foods.

Official rebranding is still going on. The Carlisle location changed its name three weeks ago. The Menaul store, as well as the Wild Oats in Santa Fe, has not yet made the sign switch, but have

completely transitioned to Whole Foods products. Santa Fe also has an original Whole Foods.

Whole Foods Market Inc. paid \$671 million for the rival Wild Oats Markets Inc. The Federal Trade Commission initially opposed the sale, fearing Whole Foods would have a monopoly on the natural foods market and raise prices.