## Healthy choices at shop

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH-When Marian Wall started a small shop called Harmony Farms 31 years ago, she didn't think she was a pioneer, and she didn't know much about busi-

"It started with bulk herbs in jars," said Wall, who began the natural food store to help support her own vegetarian lifestyle. "When merchandise would come in, we'd mark it with a magic marker. It really was cutting edge."

Since her 1974 start, Wall has watched as Wellspring opened and became Whole Foods. She witnessed the beginning of the Weaver Street Market and Earth Fare's recent push into the Triangle.

Through it all, Wall has quietly grown and expanded her business, trying locations in and on Chapel Hill Hillsborough Street in Raleigh, but finally settling in her 3,600-square-foot store in North Raleigh's Creedmoor Crossing at Creedmoor and Millbrook roads.

It was the hours and work—not the competition—that led Wall to sell the business in May.

"I wanted to enjoy the fruits of my labor—the organic fruits, that is," she said, jokingly during a recent interview at the store. "I sold it

## Mississippi town

"Everybody was just kind of dumbstruck by the damage," he

Then the National Guard came and started clearing the roads. He's seen the Red Cross pass by, but their distribution center

is miles from here, in Bay St. Louis.
"Help is around, but you've got to go to it," he says. "You've got

to really reach for it. So day after day, Bennett waits for an insurance agent to show up, stewing over the idea that the U.S. government

responded faster to tsunami victims in Indonesia than to rural Mississippians. He's also angry that so much attention is focused on displaced victims of the New Orleans floods when the people of Pearlington and nearby Waveland live in squalid, third-world

### Obesity and high blood pressure at greater risk

Continued from page 1B

lems and increasing salt sensitivity, to name a few.

That not everyone overweight develops high blood pressure also may help explain why not everyone who is overweight suffers health problems, Hu said.

"It's like saying not all the smokers will develop lung cancer," even though smoking clearly raises that risk, he said.



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because it was too time consuming, and I want to have time for my four grandkids.

The new owners, North Raleigh residents Steve and Nancy Long, are trying not to change the things that work for the store.

In many ways, it's still the same as it was before Wall sold it

Bulk bins stock seeds and grains and herbs. The dairy case carries soy milk, goat milk and yogurt. And the aisles look a little different than a traditional food store's. Rather than Doritos and Coke, a section of wheat and gluten-free items is down one way, and an entire aisle dedicated to bottled water, water filters and water treatment systems is in the back.

But the Longs are making changes to its appearance updating its technology, brightening its look and preparing it for the next 30 years of busines

It's a future with more competition than ever before. The natural and organic food sector blossomed into a \$10.9 bil-

Please see NATURAL/4B

# The Charlotte Post











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