

El Diario Sin Nombre

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A Christmas by July for Most HSD Staff

The department's Information Technology Division (ITD) has begun replacing our old computers with new, twice-as-fast Hewlett Packard desktop models. The need for new computers was highlighted during the recent Conficker virus attack. During the clean-up from the virus attack, ITD discovered that many of our machines did not have sufficient memory to accept the latest security and virus patches to protect the HSD network from attack.

The rollout phase of this project began on Monday when ITD staff and the computer deployment team completed their final training. The next day they began replacing the Administrative Services Division's computers, located just next door to the ITD, but soon they will visit every one of the department's offices.

This project's name is IT Refresh and the goal is to replace most of the 2,000 computers in the department by June 30. IT Refresh project manager, Mario Gonzalez said because of the sheer size of the project they have contracted out most of the work to a vendor who is paid a flat rate per computer installed. "We are under a time constraint because the deployment contract ends on June 30, and we want to get the job done by this deadline."

The IT Refresh operation will need the support from field staff statewide to transfer their data from their current machines to their new machines and to meet the deadline, but much of the time consuming pre-deployment work is already done: all of the new computers have been shipped to Albuquerque where the vendors are unpacking them, installing software and re-packing them for transport elsewhere.

"Because there are so many computers, we have established a central location to get them ready for the field," said Gonzalez. "We have found a place to environmentally dispose of all the cardboard, but we are still looking for someone to take for recycle the internal packaging materials; we don't want all of it to end up out on some land fill."

The ITD and vendor staff assigned to this project is about 20 people. On a typical day, they will be able to replace five or ten computers at a time, depending on the size of the targeted office. It will take from one half-hour to one hour to replace one computer. This includes downloading all of the saved data from the old computer and transferring it to the new computer and removing the old computer from the office.

Most HSD staff will then eagerly sit down behind their brand sparkling new computer, monitor and keyboard – few will even care to wonder what the fate of their old coffee-stained work partner of so many years was. You will be happy to know that the junk pile is not going to be the final resting place for your old computer. In fact, some old computers may even find more loving, safer homes than the ones they had with you!

"The final phase in the IT Refresh will be to dispose of all of the old computers," said Gonzalez. "They will be taken back to Albuquerque to be sanitized of data and turned over to our vendor who will do one of two things with them: either melt them down for metals or turn them over to schools or non-profit agencies. Some of our three-year-old computers still have life left in them for organizations who do not have a need for Office 2007 and updated virus protection."

While ITD Director Terri Gomez is confident about the success of this project, she did say, "I'll feel better after we get the first one hundred computers installed on schedule."

Just about every employee will receive a computer that is at least twice as fast as his or her old one and capable of supporting the latest security and virus patches as well as Microsoft Office 2007. "Most staff will notice right away that their new computer is ready for use after booting up and virus checks much more quickly than before," said Gomez. "You won't have to spend as much time in



ASD's Audrey Gonzales eagerly waits while vendor Wesley Armstrong set up her new computer on Tuesday.

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Gallup HSD Staff Have a New Home, Next Door to Their Old Home

HSD staff in the large Gallup office enjoys working in their new office that has just about everything a state employee could ask for, and then some. “The new 17,649 square foot facility is light and spacious with exterior windows in all offices,” said Paula Maglione, HSD’s General Services Bureau Chief. “It also has an interesting entrance: it is marquee style with stone columns and faces east in keeping with Native American culture. One unique feature outside this office is heated sidewalks to help reduce falls during the grueling Gallup winter months.”

Community leaders are impressed with the building and see it as a significant improvement to the site, which fronts Route 66. (Can you guess how many other HSD field offices are located on Historic Route 66?) Staff moved into their new office back in October and held their Open House on May 15.

“It’s great! There is more space and the CSED is here now. Our clients really enjoy coming in to see our new office,” said Bernina Johnson, who works at the Gallup ISD office.

Lucy Hardy, also of Gallup, added, “Clients like our office. Many told me that it’s about time we have a new office.”

Hardy said the open house was well attended by the Gallup community. “Everything went well; there were some good speeches, and we were joined by two newly-elected city councilors Brian Wall and Mike Enfield.”

The building owners provided lunch for all staff and open house attendees and the public were given tours of the new building between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

The McKinley County ISD office has long been the busiest office per capita in the state for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In March 2009, 26 percent of all residents in the county, 18,300 people, were receiving SNAP benefits.

In all, the Gallup ISD office has 45 ISD workers, three itinerant CSED workers out of the Farmington CSED office and three New Mexico State University TANF Works staff.



Paula Maglione, center, performs the ribbon cutting honors at the new Gallup HSD office. From left is Debbie Ross, CSED Farmington, Ted Roth, Deputy ISD Director, Albert Delgado, ISD ROM, Cindy Lozano Gallup ISD, Linda Hall, Gallup ISD, Bernina Johnson, Gallup ISD, Jocelyn Vigil Gallup ISD and Lucy Hardy, Gallup ISD.

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your friend’s office next door waiting for your computer to be ready for the day’s work.” Having the whole department working with faster computers will save countless hours for staff and help the always-busy ITD Help Desk because they will only have one computer model to service in the future.

Gomez said the funding for IT Refresh has come from several different sources and it made sense to replace all of the computers in the department that did not have the memory capacity to support the latest security and virus patches and were not capable of supporting Microsoft Office 2007. The new computers will last at least four years (they have been warranted for four years, instead of the standard three-year period). The cost of each computer was only \$1,000.

“The only caveat I see is that it may take some time for the software programs to catch up with our computers, which is a position most large government agencies would be envious to,” said Gomez.

Oh, there is one caveat for you from Mario: He highly recommends that you buckle-up in your chair before you turn on your new, souped-up, four-gigabyte baby!

Long-serving Advocate for Low-Income New Mexicans Receives Prestigious Award

Goodwill Industries of New Mexico honored Ruth Hoffman as the Advocate of the Year for her service to the community. Hoffman is the Director of the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in New Mexico and has had a longstanding good relationship with the department in her capacity as an advocate for those less fortunate.

In receiving this award, among her noted achievements was being instrumental in advocating for policies in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program. During welfare reforms in 1996, where states could now shape much of their own rules for cash payments to low income families with dependant children, Hoffman played a major role in shaping many of the policies of the program. She worked closely with legislators and advocated the adoption of policies that best served these families.

“Ruth is a strong and dedicated voice speaking out for vulnerable and disadvantaged New Mexicans every day, and for that she is honored today,” the award read.

Interestingly, Goodwill Industries opened their first second-hand store in New Mexico in 1941, naming it Albuquerque Goodwill, under the sponsorship of the Lead Street Methodist Church. Its founders under the leadership of Reverend Luther Evans rented a storeroom on Central Avenue in downtown Albuquerque for \$18 per month.

Over the years, Goodwill Industries expanded as a private non-profit agency that provides skill development and job opportunities to persons with barriers to employment. They do this with revenues generated through the sale of donated clothing and goods through eleven stores in seven New Mexico communities. In 2007, they began honoring people in our state who work toward helping them meet their goals through the Edgar Awards in Human Services that honors nine people each year ranging from the employee of the year to those for lifetime achievements.

HSD Secretary Hyde is one of three people who nominated Hoffman for the 2009 Edgar Award in human services. “I am submitting Ms. Hoffman as a nominee for the 2009 Advocate of the Year, honoring her for her dedication in being a voice for those who otherwise are not heard on important issues facing New Mexicans,” said Hyde. “As Director of the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in New Mexico, Ms. Hoffman supports an aggressive agenda fighting for the people of New Mexico. Her goals focus on fighting poverty and hunger and supporting programs that help New Mexicans.” The other two people who nominated Hoffman were State Senator Linda Lopez and State Representative Luciano “Lucky” Varela.

After being honored by Goodwill Industries, Hoffman did not go home and rest on her laurels: another emergency was brewing when the department’s General Assistance Program was in jeopardy of lowering its average \$266 monthly benefit to \$170 due to growth in the program over the past two years and lack of adequate funding. She quietly began working with the department and the Governor’s office to find a solution to offer a much more generous cash benefit of \$245 per month to the 2,100 seriously poor people in the program. Later she said she will begin working with the Legislature to have General Assistance funded at this higher amount on an on-going basis.

Others receiving Goodwill Industries Edgar Awards were Senator Pete V. Domenici, in 2008; State Representative Edward C. Sandoval, District 17, in 2008 and Albuquerque City Councilor Debbie O’Malley, in 2007.



Ruth Hoffman, left, receives her Edgar Award from KOB-TV news anchor Nicole Brady, John Conklan, Goodwill Industries of NM CEO and Craig Protz Goodwill Industries of NM Chairman of the Board.



The first Goodwill Store in New Mexico, in 1941.

Help Get the Word Out to Clients About Farmers' Markets Accepting EBT and Consider Visiting One Yourself This Summer

With more families enrolling in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (the old Food Stamp Program) more farmers' markets are working to get ISD clients' business by installing Point of Sale Devices that read Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Cards. This year, six farmers' markets are accepting EBT cards.

Albuquerque Downtown Market

Location: 8th and Central at Robinson Park
Schedule: Saturdays, 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Market Season: June 6 - October 31
Contact: Carolyn Espi, (505) 243-2230
Accepts EBT, Women's Infants and Children Program (WIC)

Belen Growers' Market

Location: Anna Becker Park, Hwy 309/Reinken
Schedule: Fridays, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Spring Market: May 1 - June 26
Market Season: July 10 - October 30
Contact: Jennifer Singleterry, (505) 401-4390 or Claudette Riley, (505) 459-6159
Accepts EBT, WIC and Senior checks

Clovis Farmers' Market

Location: Corner of 4th and Pile
Schedule: Saturdays, 8 a.m. - sellout; Tuesdays, 5 p.m. - sellout
Market Season: June 28 - November 1
Contact: Denny Wymore, (575) 389-9889
Accepts EBT, WIC and Senior checks

"We began serving families with EBT cards last August, near the end of the season, so it took awhile for it to catch on," said Sebra Moore, who runs the Española Farmers' Market. "We welcome everyone back this year and hope that more people receiving nutrition assistance will choose to shop with us."

"We continue to work with the Farmers' Market Association and individual farmers' markets to improve our clients' access to their great products," said Katie Falls, HSD Deputy Secretary. "Three other farmers' markets in Bernalillo, Albuquerque's Nob Hill area and Socorro are working to allow EBT card users at their locations as well."

Española Farmers' Market

Location: 1005 N. Railroad Ave.
Schedule: Mondays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Season: June 15th - October 26th
Contact: Sabra Moore, (505) 685-4842
Accepts EBT, WIC and Senior checks

Santa Fe Farmers' Market

Location: Farmers' Market Pavilion, 1607 Paseo de Peralta at Guadalupe
Schedule: Saturdays and Tuesdays (beginning May 5), 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Market Season: Begins April 25
Contact: Tim Vos, (505) 983-4098
Website: www.santafefarmersmarket.com
Accepts EBT, WIC and Senior checks

Silver City Farmers' Market

Location: 701 N. Main, between 7th and 8th at the Big Ditch
Schedule: Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Market Season: Begins May 2
Contact: Asunda Uribe, (575) 534-9458
Accepts EBT, WIC, and Senior checks



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Summer fun in New Mexico

