

Leaders say commuters can make a 'ton of difference'

City and county leaders are challenging businesses and other organizations to remove more than a ton of air pollution this June through the 2009 Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge.

The challenge is to log more "smart miles" in June. These include walking, cycling, taking the bus, using carpools/vanpools, telecommuting for meetings or other work-related activities, and eating in for lunch.

Large and small organizations with the best record at the end of June will receive the Walk & Roll Commuters Challenge Cup. Employees should start logging smart miles on June 1.

The challenge is an annual event conducted by the Alamo Area Council of Governments and the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization to reduce ozone pollution by traveling smarter. Agencies, schools, businesses and other employers in the 12 county region that includes Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Wilson counties are invited to participate.

Employers may register with AACOG by contacting Brenda Williams at 362-5246 and appointing a project officer, or sending an e-mail to bwilliams@aacog.com. After registering, visit www.rcride.com to sign up for the challenge.



Tech mixer

The San Antonio Technology Center will hold a "Summer Tech Blowout" mixer on June 4, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 3463 Magic Drive. The quarterly mixer features networking, refreshments and a chance to meet potential clients.

The San Antonio Technology Center strives to foster the exchange of ideas, knowledge and capital between leaders and entrepreneurs throughout the technology and bioscience industries.

For more information, visit www.satech-mixer.com.

NISD names schools

The Northside Independent School District (NISD) has announced the names of the middle school and three elementary schools that are scheduled to open in the summer of 2010.

These names, says NISD spokeswoman Karen Adler, will honor a former governor turned philanthropist, a beloved educator, the district's former director of guidance and counseling and a trusted school

engineer. All four names were submitted by members of the public through the district's "Name A School" process. The names are as follows:

- Dolph Briscoe Middle School (formerly "Alamo Ranch" MS) honors the former governor of Texas, who has donated millions of dollars to cultural and educational institutions in San Antonio and Austin.

- Bobbye Behlau Elementary School (formerly "Laurel Mountain Ranch area" ES) is named for a woman who spent more than 40 years in education, as an elementary teacher, reading specialist, vice principal, and principal. After she retired, Behlau co-founded the Northside Museum Association and wrote the history of NISD.

- Dr. Pat Henderson Elementary School (formerly "Kallison Ranch area" ES) is named for a longtime advocate for children, first as a teacher and counselor and later as the director of Guidance and Counseling for Northside ISD from 1982 to 2001. Henderson developed Northside's comprehensive guidance program, which now is the model used in schools worldwide.

- Jim G. Martin Elementary School (formerly "Canterbury Farms area" ES) honors a man who dedicated his career to education. As an engineer, Martin spent 30 years working for public school districts, making sure students were educated in durable, and energy-efficient schools and oversaw the renovations and construction of dozens of schools. He served as NISD's assistant superintendent for Facilities & Operations and retired in December 2008.

—Tamarind Phinisee

Resource center opens

The Georgie Briscoe Resource Center in Uvalde, Texas, is open for business.

The center is a program of locally based Morningside Ministries, which has served older adults and their families for almost 50 years.

The training center provides educational training and support to caregivers that address the physical, mental and spiritual needs of elders in care.

On-site classes include topics ranging from handling common geriatric emergencies to aging and spirituality. Caregiver support groups are hosted monthly.

In addition, the center offers online and on-demand access to training courses on the Internet in partnership with the Elizabeth McGown Training Institute at Morningside Ministries.

Free online videos at www.mmlearn.org allow caregivers to access information and communicate with presenters and facilitators in San Antonio and other cities.

All online resources and most on-site classes and support groups are offered free of charge.

The rest have a minimal fee.

The Elizabeth McGown Training Institute is another program dedicated to training caregivers and is headquartered in San Antonio.

For more information about the center and its classes or to schedule a visit, contact Morningside Ministries at 210-734-1211 or visit www.mmlearn.org.

—Tamarind Phinisee