

**... Wildcat Fire**

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Brandon Neal assisted the firefighters in locating routes in to fight the fire. Along with Robert Lee VFD Fire Chief Mark Sides and Assistant Fire Chief Ross Torres, Coke County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Randall Jacks coordinated the fire fighting efforts. Also assisting the firefighters were Coke County Constables Marshall Millican and Marty Boyd. Coke County Commissioners and County employees were providing support through water trucks and heavy equipment. Other heavy equipment and operators, as well as water tankers, were provided by W.E.B., Dunagin, Sterling County and private ranchers from the area. Precinct 2 employees Darrell Sowell and Mike Saunders assisted by spotting routes and requesting units off upper Mountain Road.



[Editor's Note: The Observer/Enterprise, as well as those in command of the fire fighting operations, are working to get an accurate report of all departments and support services involved. However, some may be missed and I apologize for their omission.]

In the early morning hours of Friday, April 15, the fire raced up the western side of the divide on Highway 208 and threatened the Hooten home. In a very short time, the fire jumped Highway 208 near the bottom of the divide.

On Friday, Tom Green County was also attacked by the Wildcat Fire as it crossed the county line on Highway 208, FM 2034, and March Road. Doc Holladay surrounded his headquarters with a 40 foot firebreak and was able to save them with the help of family and friends. Less than 100 acres remained unburned from over two sections of the Holladay property.

Areas in Tom Green County around Grape Creek and Quail Valley were evacuated.

Saturday morning, the fire crossed to the west side of

FM 2034 near the bottom of Mountain Road and the Paint Creek Loop intersection. At this time, Coke County Precinct 4 employee Jimmy Walker was injured when his road grader was engulfed. He suffered from burns and smoke inhalation. He was back out fighting again within a couple of days. A firetruck was providing cover for the grader, but ran out of water.

Saturday afternoon, the fire

jumped from the south side of FM 2662 to the north side on the west end closest to Highway 208.

Saturday evacuations in Coke County included the Mountain Road area, Paint Creek Loop area, all areas on the west side of Lake Spence, residents on either side of FM 2662, Valley View area, Buffalo Creek area, Harmon Lane, and FM 2034.

By Sunday, the fire

appeared to be rolling northeast toward Bronte at an alarming rate.

Sunday afternoon, a call was heard on the emergency radio from a firefighter reporting a breach of the fire-line near Double Barrel Road east of 7 Mile Hill. At this time, the Incident Commander ordered an evacuation of Bronte. Law enforcement personnel, including the Coke County

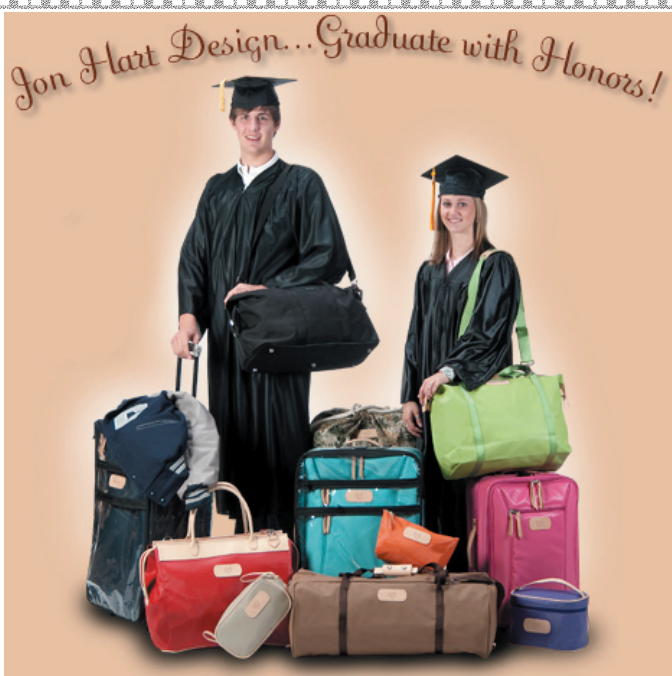
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**Jon Hart Trunk Show**  
**Wednesday, April 27**  
**11 am - 2 pm**  
**MAIN STREET MARKET**  
105 Main Street  
Bronte, Texas

**PROCLAMATION OF APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

WHEREAS, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, The anniversary of this National Fair Housing Law, provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

NOW THEREFORE, WE, the City Council of Bronte, do proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in Bronte, and do hereby urge all the citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have affixed our signatures and seal on this the 14th day of April, 2011.

*Gerald Sandusky*

Mayor, City of Bronte

Witness:

*Pat Martindale*

City Secretary