

JEFFERSON COUNTY LINE

2025 Spring Edition

2024 Employee

Excellence Award Winners



On April 15, 2025, the 2024 Employee Excellence Award winners were announced in Commissioners' Court. Verenice Rosales, Director of HR & Risk Management, presented three employees with certificates and monetary rewards for their outstanding professional achievements. Please see page 7 to read all about our wonderful recipients!

Commissioner's Court would like to commend all Telecommunicators and Administrative Professional Employees in observance of Telecommunicator's Week April 13-19, 2025, and Administrative Professionals' Day April 23, 2025.

Thank you for a job well done!



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— APRIL IS —
COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
Month

April is National County Government Month, so this month we celebrate each of you.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the citizens and employees of Jefferson County.

Employee Assistance Program
1-800-324-4327

Deferred Compensation
1-877-677-3678

UNITED HEALTH CARE
1-866-414-1959 (General Information)
1-877-844-4999 (Technical Support)

Risk Management
409-835-8672

Employee Health Department
409-784-5881

County Website
Jeffersoncountytx.gov

EMPLOYEE HEALTH CLINIC

DERMATOLOGY UPDATE

WHAT IS ACTINIC KERATOSIS?

Also called *solar keratosis*

An AK forms when the skin is badly damaged by ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun or indoor tanning. Most people will get more than one AK. Anyone who has AKs should be examined yearly. Most people who have AKs will continue to get new AKs throughout their life. AKs are considered precancerous. By seeing a clinician yearly, the AKs can be treated before they become skin cancer. If skin cancer does develop, it can be caught early when treatment can often cure skin cancer.

Left untreated, AKs may turn into a type of skin cancer called squamous cell carcinoma. People who have AKs also have a higher risk of getting other types of skin cancer. Fair skin, freckles, natural light hair color, skin that burns easily in the sun and people over 40 years of age are more prone to AKs.

Most people who get AKs do not have any symptoms. They only notice changes to their skin. Symptoms can occur such as a rough-feeling patch on skin that cannot be seen. Rough patches or growths that feel painful when rubbed, and itch or burn are signs of AK. An AK can appear on the skin, remain for months, and then flake off and disappear. The skin can suddenly feel smooth. Many AKs re-appear in a few days to a few weeks. They often reappear when the person goes outdoors without sun protection.



Most AKs look like raised, scaly, red bumps on the skin.
This 57-year-old woman has several AKs on her face.

There are many treatments for AKs. Some treatments can be performed in the Employee Health Clinic. The goal of treatment is to destroy the AKs and use preventative measures to reduce the reoccurrence of AKs. Wearing a sunscreen every time you are out in the sun. Protecting your lips with 30 SPF sunscreen. Wearing UV protective clothing and avoiding the hottest parts of the day can all reduce your risk. The Employee Health Clinic offers free skin screenings to anyone on the County Health insurance plan. Please call the clinic for an appointment today at (409) 784-5881

Enjoy the benefits of sunshine, but remember to protect your skin from the burn!

Leslie Riggs, APRN, FNP-C

Southeast Texas Super Seniors 12th Annual Appreciation Breakfast



Jefferson County Precinct # 4 Commissioner Everett “Bo” Alfred hosted the **12th Annual “Southeast Texas Super Seniors” Program Appreciation Breakfast** on January 16, 2025, at **Cathedral of Faith Baptist Church**. About **450** people attended the breakfast to recognize the program’s generous corporate sponsors and community partners. Each November, the program organizes the “Annual Thanksgiving Giveaway.” To date, the program has provided **525** H-E-B gift cards, **90** smoked turkeys, and over **363** turkey dinners with all the trimmings to Jefferson County citizens in hopes of assisting families that would benefit the most and lighten the load that comes with the Holiday Season.

Breakfast attendees heard important information from guest speaker, Brit Featherston of the Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office. The Lakeside Center Best Year, Jefferson County Long Term Recovery Group, Legacy Community Health, and the Jefferson County District Clerk Passports office served as vendors and presented information on their services. Seniors dined on a delicious breakfast served by Precinct 4 staff and volunteers of the Jefferson County District Clerk’s Office and the Jefferson County Sheriff Department. Other volunteers were from Jefferson County Precinct # 6, the Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitor Center, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Cathedral of Faith Baptist Church, and Maxson Memorial COGIC Business and Professional Women’s Federation. Attendees also enjoyed door prizes donated by area businesses. **Thank you to all who participated and whose generosity made this event a success!**

What's Happening at the Ben?

An update from the Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitors Center

Spring is here and we couldn't be more excited! Visitors from across the country and across the pond have been stopping by the Visitors Center on the way to points in Texas and beyond, as well as exploring Jefferson County.



We welcome them and enjoy sharing information about the area and tips on museums, attractions, food, fishing, birding, and more.

In addition to greeting visitors in the Visitors Center, staff members have been busy traveling to other areas to spread the word of all the fun things to do in our area. We've been to Lake Charles, Opelousas, New Braunfels, Longview, and Fort Worth. Upcoming shows are planned for McAllen, Port Lavaca, and Jacksonville. We'll take a break in the summer and then hit a few others in the fall.

Spring migration is in full swing now with birds of all shapes and sizes coming through. Sabine Woods, near Sabine Pass, is considered one of the most productive migrant stopovers along the entire Texas Coast. Sea Rim State Park is a great location to find shorebirds and sea shells. Cattail Marsh, in Tyrrell Park, is a 900 acre wetlands with 275+ species of birds, along with a Wetlands Education Center, and 8 miles of levees and a boardwalk. We carry a multitude of birding

brochures, so stop by to get some on your way.

National Travel & Tourism week will run May 4th thru May 10th this year. Keep an eye on our website calendar for events in the area. If you have an event you would like to post, please send the info to us and we will get it on the website.

We would like to thank everyone for your support during the year and hope you will find time to stop by the Visitors Center for a visit. We have lots of tips on places to travel and fun things to do.

**Follow
Us on
Social
Media**



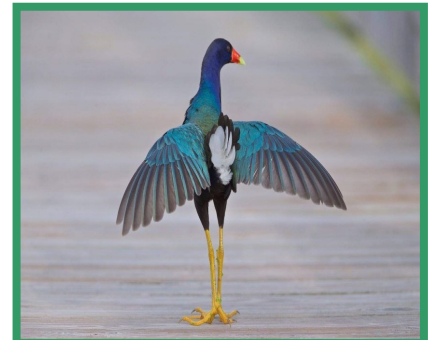
Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates



On Facebook:
Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitors Center



on Instagram @explorejeffcotx



Precinct #3 Commissioner
Micheal Shane Sinegal

Phase 1

BRICK FUNRAISER PROJECT

IN HONOR OF, IN MEMORY OF, OR JUST BECAUSE
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS FURTHERING THE COMPLETION OF
PROJECT

BUY A BRICK LEAVE A LEGACY

WHERE : POPEYE HOLMES PARK 525 LAKESHORE DR.
PORT ARTHUR, TX 77640

WHEN: SUMMER OF 2025(BUT ORDER YOUR BRICK
NOW)

AMOUNT: \$50 COST FOR ENGRAVING BRICK
FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BY ORDER!

3 LINES PER BRICK, EXTRA LINE FOR
\$4.00

CAN USE LOGO, IT TAKES UP THE
WHOLE BRICK, ONLY DONE IN BLACK,
MUST HAVE A CAMERA IMAGE READY!

MAKE PAYMENT TO: JEFFERSON COUNTY PCT.3
BRICK WALK PROJECT
525 LAKESHORE DRIVE
PORT ARTHUR, TX 77640

NOTE: (PUT THE WORD **BRICK** IN THE MEMO SPACE)



Springtime Means Tomatoes in the Garden

Tomatoes are a Southeast Texas garden staple. We all love our tomatoes, especially when they are sliced on a hamburger, chopped in a salad, spread on a pizza, or processed into a mouthwatering salsa; the tomato takes top honors in the garden. It does not matter if your favorite tomato is the beefsteak or the cherry tomato variety, there is a tomato to suit just about everyone's needs.

When choosing varieties, there are a couple of things to consider and remember when choosing that specific plant for the garden.

A **determinate** variety is a bush variety that is genetically predisposed to reach a determined size (usually 3-5 feet) and produce most of its fruit at the same time. Once fruit sets and begins to enlarge, the plant directs its energy into ripening fruit rather than vegetative growth.

An **Indeterminate** variety is one that will continually vine to grow and produce foliage, flowers, and produce fruit until ended by disease or freezing temperatures. These plants can grow several feet tall over one growing season. These tend to have excess foliage that can help to shield developing fruit from sunscald issues.

A **Hybrid** is a cross of two distinct plant varieties under controlled conditions. The result is a F1 (first generation) hybrid that has uniform growth, dependable production, and vigor year after year. Hybrids that possess traits for disease resistance are often labeled with a string of alphabet letters. These letters (you will most often see V, F, N, M, T, and A followed behind a variety name) will help to identify the types of disease resistance that this plant has. The more letters associated with the name will mean that this variety has better disease resistance.

An **heirloom** tomato is an open pollinated variety with a long history of being grown at least 50 years and more specifically a variety that has been passed down in a particular region, community, or even family. You will see varieties such as Black Krim, Brandywine, or German Giant just to name a few. These tomatoes are usually very rich with flavor but come at a cost of excess fruit production.

Planting/Care: When planting your tomatoes, there a couple of things to keep in mind for maximum yields. Choose varieties that are well suited to our region. Look for "heat tolerant" varieties such as Heatmaster, Solar Fire, Summer Set, Phoenix, Dixie Red, Early Girl, Big Beef, Homestead, and Roma varieties that will withstand our warm temperatures.

When planting in the garden, prep the area with good quality well drained soil that is rich in composted materials. This will make a huge difference in production. Place plants at least 24" - 36" apart in rows for best air circulation. Reduce transplant shock by

planting in a cooler part of the day or even on a cloudy day for better results. Plant plants deeply into the ground covering a good portion of the stem, or you can even use the trench method for tall and leggy plants. Be sure to install cages or supports for these plants early, or you will risk damaging plants if you try this when plants are mature size. Be sure to fertilize sufficiently to provide ample nutrition as well. Fertilize once at planting time (one half to one third cup granular fertilizer mixed into the soil in the bottom of planting hole) and side dressing again when the first blooms begin to appear on the plant to help provide consistent fertilization. Be sure to provide water on a regular basis with base watering of the soil and not the leaves for the best results. Tomatoes will respond quickly to poor watering habits by wilting leaves and lack of flowering on plants which will result in minimal fruit production. Mulching around the base helps to conserve moisture and minimize weeds as well.

Pests/Disease: If the heat is not enough for plants, then insects such as whiteflies, stinkbugs, spider mites, and hornworms are the addition to the garden that no gardener wants to deal with. Proper identification and control methods must be used to combat these issues. Frequent trips to the garden for "scouting purposes" will keep you alert and ready to address issues as needed. Options can include mechanical control such as handpicking, or sprays such as neem oils or horticultural grade insecticidal soaps for control. Multiple and repeat applications may be needed for effective control. You can also use chemical options if needed. Whenever you use any insecticide in the garden, be sure to follow all labels accordingly for best results.

Harvest: Weather, sunlight, and moisture all affect a tomato's flavor, but the most important factor in developing outstanding fruit is letting the fruit ripen on the vine. That is easier said than done in Southeast Texas. You can harvest most tomatoes in the "breaker stage." This is where fruit starts to blush with color, and it will ripen indoors eventually. It will not match the vine ripened tomato, but it will be pretty close.

For peak flavor and experience, let them ripen as long as possible on the vine, even if you have to beat the Mockingbirds away if needed. Then let the bragging begin on who has the best tomatoes around.

For more gardening information:

David Oates—Jefferson County CEA—Horticulture
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Jefferson County
David.oates@ag.tamu.edu
<https://jefferson.agrilife.org>
409.835.8461

2024 Employee Excellence Awards

Congratulations to all award winners!



The winner for the 2024 Employee Excellence Award is **Kenneth Shepherd**, Superintendent of Building Maintenance—Port Arthur. Kenneth has been an employee with Jefferson County for 4 years. Kenneth was awarded a certificate and a check for \$700 and will have his name on a plaque that will permanently hang outside of the County Clerk's Office. He will also receive a framed copy of the resolution naming him as the 2024 Employee Excellence Award recipient.



The first finalist for the 2024 Employee Excellence Award is **Victoria Schultz**, Media and Grant Coordinator for the Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitors Center. Victoria has been with the county for over 5 years. She was awarded a certificate and a check for \$350.



The second finalist for the 2024 Employee Excellence Award is **Tammie Ragan**, Account Clerk for the County Tax Office. Tammie has been with the county for 4 years. She was awarded a certificate and a check for \$300.

welcome



We would like to welcome the following new employees to Jefferson County!

Auditor's Office: Michayla Davis

Adult Probation: Denisia Bryant, Elizabeth Esparza, Sunni Malbrough, Dachannin Phillips

Constable, Pct. 6: Gloriaycella Gonzalez, Lester Wilson Jr.

County Clerk: Cecilia Garcia

County Court at Law No. 1: Tina Granger

District Attorney: Robert Hilton

District Clerk: Cielo Castillo

Environmental Control: Bryanna Moore

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2: Alexis Zamora

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 7: Wendy Tate

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 8: Nohemi Rocha

Juvenile Probation: Ivan Gaytan, Jacqueline Jones, Summer Kennerson

Mosquito Control: Kevin Carthon

Roads & Bridges, Pct. 3: Russell Robinson

Sheriff: Latroya Bell, Tristan Bolieu, Kevin Boyce, Luis Castro Argueta, Hannah Celestain, Trinitee Clark, Amy Courts, Justice Crain, Tahj Grant, Kaitlyn Hill, Marissa Irvin, Dealeshia Jackson, Jordan Josey, Albin Judice IV, Regina Moorman, Kimberly Painter, Nicole Proctor, Ronnie Reece Jr., Walter Spitzer, Carley Swearingen, Patricia Thomas, Kevin Williams

Tax Office: Nicole Bullock, Kristina Jones, Kristine Laterra, Karen Whynot

Please help us welcome our new Elected Officials!

Kate Carroll, County Tax Assessor-Collector

Everette Cormier, Sr., Constable, Pct. 6

We wish all of the retirees continued happiness and success in their future endeavors. Congratulations!

January

Craig Dommert
Angela Morman
Denise Roccaforte
Harry Schoppe
Danny Walker

February

Reginald Boykin
Tina Moreau

March

Bruce Minter
Paula Ogazi

REMINDERS FOR RETIREMENT

Contact Brandi Doyle in Human Resources, to schedule your appointment to retire and to receive a list of required documents.

If you do not already have access to your online portal you will need to contact Human Resources for your account number.

(409) 839-2391

The Absolute Best Spring Bucket List

Fun for the Whole Family!

1. Picnic in Backyard

2. Bake Cookies

3. Blow Bubbles Outside

4. Make Homemade Lemonade

5. Go to the Zoo/Petting Farm

6. Plant New Flowers

7. Go Fishing

8. Play with Sidewalk Chalk

9. Dye Easter Eggs

10. Paint Rocks

11. Pick Berries

12. Go on a Scavenger Hunt

13. Play in the Rain

14. Take Family Pictures

15. Make a Bird Feeder

16. Read a New Book

17. Have a Board Game Night

18. Ride Bikes

19. Go For a Hike

20. Watch the Sunset

21. Write a Letter to Someone

22. Pay it Forward

23. Find a Rainbow

24. Catch Butterflies

25. Stargaze in the Backyard

Risk Management Reminders

A convenient and faster way to get care

Doctors can treat a wide range of health conditions—including many of the same conditions as an emergency room (ER) or urgent care—and may even prescribe medications,² if needed. **With a UnitedHealthcare plan, your cost for a 24/7 Virtual Visit is usually \$0.³**

Consider 24/7 Virtual Visits for these common conditions:

- Allergies
- Flu
- Sore throats
- Bronchitis
- Headaches/migraines
- Stomachaches
- Eye infections
- Rashes
- and more

\$0 cost

An estimated 25% of ER visits could be treated with a 24/7 Virtual Visit — bringing a potential \$2,000⁴ cost down to \$0.

Get started

Sign in at myuhc.com/virtualvisits | Call 1-855-615-8335
Download the UnitedHealthcare app

**United
Healthcare**

MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR BENEFITS?

The Risk Management page of the County website has detailed information on all of the County benefits, along with Quick Links to the MyUHC, Express Scripts and OnlineEnroll web portals. You can access the website at:

<http://co.jefferson.tx.us/riskman/RMIndex.htm>.

Need to Call? Try These Important Numbers

UHC Medical: 1-888-567-4659

UHC Dental: 1-877-816-3596

UHC Vision: 1-800-638-3120

Liviniti: 1-800-710-9341

EAP: 1-800-324-4327



Need to Make Changes to Your Benefits?

Other than Annual Enrollment, the only time you can add or drop dependents from your Medical and/or Dental coverage is with a HIPAA **Special Enrollment Event** or **IRS Section 125 Change of Status**. However, you must enroll for or change coverage within **30 days** after the event or change of status and submit the required documentation to prove dependency (marriage license for spouse, birth certificate for children, etc.) and proof of other coverage loss/addition.

Examples of Special Enrollment Events and Change of Status are:

- Change in Legal Marital Status due to marriage, divorce or death of a spouse
- Change in Number of Dependents due to birth, adoption, or death of a dependent
- Change in Employment Status of employee, spouse or dependents
- Dependent reaches Age 26
- Changes in Coverage or Cost for spouse or dependent under another plan
- Eligibility or Loss of Eligibility for Assistance under State Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

All enrollment changes are made through the Employee Navigator website at:
<https://www.employeenavigator.com/> use the company identifier JefCou2024



GOT PAIN?

JEFFERSON COUNTY
is offering the
"NCS ON-SITE WELLNESS PROGRAM"

Available to **SETGEBP** Members enrolled in the **UHC** Medical Plan and their covered dependents (10+ years). **TOTALLY FREE OF CHARGE.**

IF YOU SUFFER FROM THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF PAIN:



NECK



SHOULDER



BACK



CARPEL TUNNEL



HEADACHES

OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCOMFORT, WE HAVE A PROGRAM JUST FOR YOU.

How it Works

NCS Doctors use an advanced soft tissue treatment called Fascial Distortion Model (FDM) to find and address injuries and relieve pain. Most issues are resolved within 2-3 visits.

Appointments are free to employees, only 15 minutes long, and located on-site.

To schedule your free 15 minute appointment:

1. Go to www.NMCSOnline.com/SETGEBP
2. Select "Create New Account"
3. Complete your medical questionnaire
4. Select "Appointment"
5. Choose a time and follow the prompts.



or scan qr code

Sign Up Now

Need help? Please contact your NCS on-site coordinator.
Additional assistance is available: support@ncshealing.com or (817) 380-4183.

Downtown Annex 215 Franklin Street, Suite 202
Beaumont, TX 77701
Monday and Wednesday
1:00 PM to 5 PM
Risk Management Room in the Annex

Mid County 7933 Viterbo Road, Unit 4
Beaumont, TX 77705
Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

What can your EAP do for you?

An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a unique, 100% employer-provided benefit. It is designed as an intervention program to help employees and their family members address personal, emotional, work related issues and other challenges.

Your Wellbeing



What is an **EAP**

An EAP offers confidential, short-term counseling and referral services to employees and their families at no cost. Whether you are facing personal issues, relationship challenges or financial stress, the EAP provides guidance and support to help you navigate these difficulties.

How does an EAP work?

When you contact your EAP, you will be connected to an Intake Coordinator who will assess your concerns and match you with the right support. Referral services are available to help address concerns such as:

Stress Management	Addiction and Recovery
Anxiety	Legal Concerns
Depression	Financial Guidance
Trauma	Parenting
Mental Wellness	Eldercare Support
Grief and Loss	Relationship/Marriage



Why use your EAP?

Your EAP offers support to help address issues you and your family may be dealing with to help prevent minor situations from escalating into overwhelming problems.

Your EAP is voluntary

and completely

CONFIDENTIAL

help starts here



800-324-4327



info@ieap.com



4eap.com

Crisis
Counselors
24/7