

JEFFERSON COUNTY LINE

2026 Spring Edition



2025 Employee Excellence Award Winners

On April 8, 2026, the 2025 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 6 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 12-18, 2026, and Administrative Professionals' Day April 22, 2026.

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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
1-866-451-5465

Deferred Compensation
1-877-677-3678

United Healthcare
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

WHY BLOOD PRESSURE MATTERS

Keeping your blood pressure (BP) in normal range is vital to long term good health. The top number is called the Systolic and is the higher of the two numbers. It reflects the pressure of blood flowing through the arteries as the heart contracts to pump blood to the rest of the body. The Diastolic is the bottom number and it measures the pressure in the arteries between heartbeats when the heart muscle is resting and refilling with blood. The American Heart Association recommends a blood pressure at or below 120 Systolic and 80 Diastolic.

The Employee Health Department wants to help you monitor your blood pressure. Please call for an appointment to have your vital signs checked and counseling on ways to lower your BP. Elevated blood pressure can cause decreased vision, stroke, heart failure, heart attack (MI), kidney failure, and erectile dysfunction. Prevention is the key to lowering the BP and avoiding failure of your internal organs.

Blood Pressure Category	Systolic mmHg (upper #)		Diastolic mm Hg (lower #)
Normal	Less than 120	or	Less than 80
Prehypertension	120—139	or	80-89
High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) Stage 1	140—159	or	90-99
High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) Stage 2	160 or higher	or	100 or higher
<u>Hypertensive Crisis</u> (Emergency care needed)	Higher than 180	or	Higher than 110

Live well to be well, Leslie Riggs APRN, FNP-C

Employee Health Clinic
 1225 Pearl Street, Suite 146-A
 Beaumont, TX 77701
 Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM

Southeast Texas Super Seniors 13th Annual Appreciation Breakfast



Jefferson County Precinct #4 Commissioner Everette “Bo” Alfred hosted the 13th Annual “Southeast Texas Super Seniors” Program Appreciation Breakfast on January 15, 2026, at Cathedral of Faith Baptist Church. More than 500 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 this 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 two guest speakers this year, Haley Gardiner, Program Director of Be Well Communities at MD Anderson Cancer Center; and, Joe Penland, Founder of Quality Mat Company, who spoke on “Saving Social Security”. The Lakeside Center Best Year, 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’s Office. Other volunteers were from Jefferson County Precinct #6, the Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitor Center, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and Cathedral of Faith Baptist Church. 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 has sprung and travelers are on the road. Gas prices are currently inching up but we hope this will soon be addressed. March brought in several bus groups, spring breakers, and tour groups. Winter Texans are making their way back north and enjoy stopping in and staying in local RV parks. We have hosted several local groups in our meeting spaces as well.

As you may know, our area of Southeast Texas is a huge draw for birders. We are on two flyaways for birds flying across the gulf headed to all points beyond. Sea Rim State Park, Sabine Woods, Pleasure Island, and Cattail Marsh are hot spots to find local birds and some you may have not seen, as they pass through. With weather like we are having now, we encourage you to take your family to one of these places and see what you might find.



Vietnam Veterans Chapter 292 has begun meeting at the Visitors Center and we are glad to host them. This group is responsible for placing the All Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the grounds. They also commemorate these days with public ceremonies on March 29th and November 11th. Both are held at the Visitors Center and we welcome you to attend.

Spring 2026 was kicked off with a lineup of shows our staff attends in cities across the state. So far, we have been to Katy, Bossier City, McAllen, and San Antonio. Future shows will be in Port Lavaca, Jacksonville, Waxahachie, Henderson, and Indiana Dunes State Park. Local HOT tax provides the funding for staff to attend these shows and talk to attendees about our museums and attractions, birding and fishing, and wonderful outdoor areas we are so fortunate to have.

Please stop by the Visitors Center 9 A.M.— 5 P.M. daily to speak with our staff members about any travel plans you might have. We have lots of statewide information and would like to help you plan a trip. You can also pick up our local travel guide to help you entertain family and friends from out of town. We'd love to see you!

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

Azalea - Spring Color for the Landscape

Springtime has arrived in Southeast Texas with a well pronounced parade of plants that are in full bloom with all of the colors that an individual can imagine. Azalea colors ranging from pastel pinks, purples, reds to snow white can be a showstopper. Now is a great time to add that color to your landscape for year-round enjoyment.

Here are a few popular and easy to grow Azalea shrubs that can be a year-round landscape staple for color & enhancement. The azalea is a true southern staple in most yards.

Most of our azaleas that we plant in our region are **Indica series** Azaleas. They will dominate most of our landscapes. Average mature height is 6'x6'. They can reach up to 10' if they are left in natural shape and form. They have an average flower size of 2" to 4" across. Here are a few staple varieties of the Indica series. Southern Charm is a variety that produces a rosy, pink flowers and is a vigorous grower. Pride of Mobile is a true watermelon red bloomer with vigorous growth mid-way through blooming period. Formosa has a deep magenta color palette and is probably the best-known azalea in our area. There is also a Red Formosa variety that has a muted red color palette as well. George L Tabor is a showstopper with blueish pink flowers that bloom mid-season. Mrs. G.G Gerbing is a bright white variety that has great potential for spreading into a large shrub.

If you are short on space and still need that southern charm from azaleas, you might consider some of the **dwarf azaleas** that do well in our area. Maximum height is 4' to 6', but usually less with a 3' average height. Christmas cheer has bright red flowers on a compact shrub that blooms mid-season and does well in smaller locations. Coral Bells is a repeat of Christmas cheer but with shell-pink blooms. HH Hume has a bright red carmine color that is easily recognized. Snow is a white dwarf variety that is a consistent bloomer and compact grower.

Impress your neighbors with a Satsuki hybrid or similar variety. These bloom later in the season and will definitely provide some visual interest to the landscape. They bloom later than Indica and dwarf varieties. Goukushin has large white varieties with pink centers and low compact growth habits. Red and Pink Gumpo are great varieties with a smaller bloom but are great for areas requiring low-growing plants. The pink Macranta has large pink flowers with reddish foliage and the old blooms will tend to stay on the plant longer.

The **Encore series** of azaleas is a double blooming Azalea which provides color in spring and fall season. There are about 23-25 different varieties of Encore azaleas available throughout

the region. These have proven to be a popular landscape addition.

Azalea growth and care is pretty easy for all gardeners with a little bit of maintenance. These plants thrive in very acidic soil. They like a soil pH of 4.5—6.5 that is well drained and does not hold excessive water. Azaleas are shallow rooted plants and should be planted on improved raised berms of quality soil for best results. Consistent watering at base of plants is ideal, especially with newer plantings. Be sure to water during periods of drought as they are shallow rooted and can become dry very quickly. They are happy to be mulched annually with a good quality pine bark or pine straw combination for soil moisture retention at a rate of 2" to 4". Locate your planting areas so that they receive full morning sunlight and filtered sunlight from the afternoon sunshine. Fertilize plants sparingly after spring bloom period and blooms are beginning to drop with an acid loving fertilizer. Prune and shape plants after blooms are over in late spring to avoid removing any blooms. The best pruning approach is to let plants have a natural shape and avoid the square manicured box shape. Simply prune out unruly canes at the base of the plant to shape naturally. The most common insect issue with azaleas is the Azalea Lace bug followed by aphids and leafhoppers. The Azalea lace bug insect will cause a white or yellow stippling of the leaves which causes the leaves to become tarnished. This can be controlled early on with horticultural oils or insecticidal soaps. More stubborn infestations may require use of systemic insecticides such as Imidicloprid or Safari for control.

With azaleas in the landscape, you will check the box for springtime color and enjoyment. Be sure to check our local displays nearby as these plants are currently in full bloom. These include Shangri La Botanical Gardens in Orange, Tyrrell Park in Beaumont, and other local city parks. For additional viewing opportunities, be sure to include SFA Ruby M. Mize Azaleas Gardens in Nacogdoches on the campus of Stephen F. Austin University and the city of Tyler, Texas as they have azalea trails for viewing enjoyment.

For more information on springtime landscape plants:

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

2025 Employee Excellence Awards

Congratulations to all award winners!



The winner of the 2025 Employee Excellence Award is **Emily Beaugh**, Administrative Secretary of the Sheriff’s Office. Emily has been an employee with Jefferson County for 15 years. Emily was awarded a certificate and a check for \$700 and will have her name on a plaque that will permanently hang outside of the County Clerk’s Office. She will also receive a framed copy of the resolution naming her as the 2025 Employee Excellence Award recipient.



The first finalist for the 2025 Employee Excellence Award is **Zack Bullion**, Personal Computer Technician for the MIS Department. Zack has been with the county for 3 years. He was awarded a certificate and a check for \$350.



The second finalist for the 2025 Employee Excellence Award is **Glenda Segura**, Court Coordinator for County Court at Law No. 2. Glenda has been with the County for almost 32 years. She was awarded a certificate and a check for \$300.



Congratulations

from the District Clerk's Office



**PEOPLE ON
THE MOVE**

The District Clerk's Office would like to congratulate and extend our best wishes to Tina Clubb on her well-deserved retirement. Thank you for all that you have contributed over the years to the success of this office—you will truly be missed!

We would also like to announce the promotion of Stacie Munselle to the position of Operations Manager effective April 1st. Congratulations Stacie!



Welcome!

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

- Adult Probation:** Kasie Chargois, Mkinzie Cole, Tammy Fenton
- County Clerk:** Shawndrea Dugas, Carol Osborne, Sharon Williams
- County Court at Law No. 2:** Sebastian Aguilar
- District Attorney:** Stephen Hinton, Luke Marvin, Farah Nixon, Gezele Ordonez
- District Clerk:** Rocio Resendiz-Gonzalez, Lacey Richmond
- Juvenile Probation:** Tara Lee, Michael Sims, Glynn Vice II
- Mosquito Control:** Bart Foster
- Public Health No. 1:** Brittany Bethea

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

REMINDERS FOR RETIREMENT

Contact McKenna Bertrand 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

- January**
 Charles 'Tim' Berryhill
 Linda Cormier
 Crystal Holmes
 Patrick 'Pat' Meeks
 Robert 'Bobby' Ortego
 Cedric Winfield
- February**
 Denise Marcel
- March**
 Susan Abshire
 Christina Clubb



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



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 OnlinEnroll web portals. You can access the website at:

<https://jeffersoncountytexas.gov/riskman/>

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:** 1-866-451-5465



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



Client Focused. Solution Driven.



Embedded Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with Claimant Assist
Support for Employees* with Life or Disability Insurance Through National Insurance Services



The EAP Program

Everyday life can be stressful and can affect your health, well-being, and performance. Fortunately, our Employee Assistance Program can aid in finding solutions. When facing personal problems, you might struggle with where to turn for help. The first step is usually the hardest, and guidance is often the key. That's why National Insurance Services (NIS) offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). An EAP offers a confidential place to find the answers that work for you.

Your EAP Service Provider

TELUS Health is a leader in the field of Employee Assistance and has been providing employee assistance services for over 40 years. TELUS Health has the experience to provide the broad range of services and guidance that is paramount to an EAP - whether it's help with day-to-day concerns or guidance through a challenging crisis. The information you discuss through the EAP is kept confidential in accordance with federal and state laws.

The EAP Process

When you access the EAP, TELUS Health counselors listen and take

action toward finding solutions. The next step may include meeting with a mental health counselor for up to three face-to-face visits, negotiating health insurance benefits, or referrals to community resources for legal and financial services.

Referrals and Resources

You can receive information and a listing of childcare and eldercare resources with confirmed vacancies meeting your specifications. If face-to-face mental health counseling sessions are required, TELUS Health counselors will refer you for counseling at a location that is convenient to your home or work. TELUS Health counselors can also refer you to self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Gamblers Anonymous and community financial and legal resources for debt management.

Claimant Assist

NIS's Claimant Assist program offers special services to Long Term Disability claimants or Life Insurance beneficiaries at no charge. If you have Disability insurance coverage through NIS, our Long Term Disability Claimant Services are available to guide and counsel claimants and their immediate family

Under our EAP you can receive no-cost, confidential help for a wide variety of needs and concerns:

- Alcohol or Drug Addictions
- Anxiety
- Childcare
- Depression
- Eating Disorders
- Eldercare
- Family Conflict
- Financial or Legal Concerns
- Marital Difficulties
- Parenting Concerns
- Problem Gambling
- Relationship Problems
- Stress Management

EAP Services Are Available to You Two Ways:

Phone: 866.451.5465

Online: www.niseap.com
Login: NISEAP | **Password:** EAP
(Note: Password Is Case-Sensitive)

Claimant Assist Services Are Available:
866.472.2734

(over)



Client Focused. Solution Driven.

members. If you have Life insurance coverage through NIS, our Beneficiary Services Program provides counseling and assistance to beneficiaries when faced with the challenge of coping with loss.

Virtual Fitness

You have access to a virtual fitness platform through the EAP. LIFT session, one of the leading fitness providers, provides you with an easily accessible, effective and affordable way to reach your fitness goals anytime, anywhere for better health and well-being.

You can work out on your own with personalized programs and access coaches if you have questions, or choose to work under the live supervision of a coach online, in 1-1 personal or group sessions.

Access to Masters-Degreed Counselors 24-Hours a Day Through a Toll-Free Number

Up to three in-person assessment and counseling sessions.

- **Legal Assistance:** Counselors may refer you to a telephone and/or one in-person consultation with an attorney.
- **Financial Assistance:** Telephone consultation with a financial consultant to address questions on budgeting, taxes, and debt consolidation.
- **Eldercare Assistance:** Our specialists can help you locate eldercare options, such as residential care or in home care, provide support in dealing with the emotions of retirement, or legal aspects like estate planning. Use our website to find resources on retirement, from financial planning and calculators, to articles on coping with retirement stress, and filing your retirement days with meaningful activities.
- **Childcare Assistance:** Telephone consultation with a work-life professional to provide information, referrals, and resources related to childcare concerns.
- **Memorial Planning Assistance:** Telephone consultation with a work-life specialist to assist with memorial and funeral planning. Services include identifying potential locations, associated costs for services, and providing information to help coordinate logistics (Available to Life insurance beneficiaries only).

Your EAP and Claimant Assist Administrator:



Telephone Assistance:

EAP: 866.451.5465

Claimant Assist: 866.472.2734

Online:

www.niseap.com | Login: NISEAP | Password: EAP

(Note: Password Is Case-Sensitive)

***The EAP is for use by the covered employee only. While issues may concern family members, all contacts to the EAP must be made by the employee.**