

The Times - News

Serving East Juab County - A Nice Place To Live!

Volume 123, No 35

September 3, 2025

Single Copy Price



County emergency manager prepares assessment of county emergency preparedness

By Myrna Trauntvein
TN Correspondent

Utah Community Emergency Preparedness Assessment (UCEPA) was prepared at the request of the Utah Division of Emergency Management who asked that Juab County prepare the assessment as part of a pilot program.

Drake Underwood, emergency manager/administrative lieutenant with the Juab County Sheriff's Office, presented the UCEPA, Juab County draft report as of June 19, 2025, to the county commission.

"They contacted me and asked me to participate in the pilot program," said Underwood.

First up was Underwood's job description as the emergency manager for the county which is to provide all-hazards emergency management for the county. He also reports to the county sheriff and the county commission.

In the summary report that he had prepared, Underwood said that the county was susceptible to a variety of natural, accidental, technological, and man-made hazards.

Those were: wildfires, floods, severe winds, droughts, power and utility failures, thunderstorms and lightning, hazardous materials releases, wild-life vehicle collisions, and pandemics/epidemics.

"In the initial 2025 UCEPA session, Juab County subject matter experts examined the threats and hazards in the Utah State Hazard Mitigation Plan and determined that for Juab County: four of the risks and hazards were assessed as very high, three were high, 12 were medium, 14 were low, and four were very low," Underwood said.

The four highest were drought, flood, hazard material releases, and wildfire. Earthquake, power and utility failure, and wildlife-vehicle collisions were the third highest.

"We have some immediate resource needs," said Underwood. "We need: more on a hazmat team, emergency management staffing for EOC, a new jail complex, storage facilities, several generators, SHERP for Search and Rescue, a mobile HVAC, a new physical EOC, and fire response vehicles and equipment," he said.

He said he had talked with Chris Wilkey, county buildings and grounds superintendent.

"The county building does not have a backup generator and neither does the county road shed," said Underwood.

If the power were to go out in the county building, it would be useless as a place to house residents. Even the computers would not work after running out of battery power.

Underwood said that the weak points of the county were the lack of resources, lack of funding and lack of personnel.

"We spend our time and funds training new deputies," said Underwood.



LIGHT TRAFFIC • Monday's traffic returning to Northern Utah after the holiday weekend was light north of Nephi. As usual those returning home after 5 p.m. experienced heavy traffic as they headed north to Salt Lake and other cities.

New Teen Center at JHS will help students feel safe, supported and ready to learn

By Myrna Trauntvein
TN Correspondent

Juab High School Teen Center is now open to students with the motto of: "Removing Barriers, Supporting Students, Building Futures."

"Every student deserves to walk into school feeling safe, supported, and ready to learn. Yet we know many face challenges we don't always see — hunger, stress, or not having a quiet place to land," said Linda Hanks, Juab School District Board of Education President. "That's why we are so excited to open the Teen Center — a place built with love and care for our students."

Heather Westring is the Teen Center Coordinator.

At Juab High School, it is believed that every student deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed. Yet, it is also known that many students face real challenges—whether it's food and housing insecurities, mental health and wellness needs, or academic barriers.

"The JHS Teen Center is here to assist in removing those barriers, provide support, and create a safe, welcoming place where students can focus on their well-being and their future," said Hanks.

Services Provided are: private shower facilities with free hygiene supplies—helping students feel refreshed, confident and ready to learn; access to laundry machines and clean clothing ensuring students can come to school feeling comfortable and prepared; a calm, supportive environment for homework, counseling and personal growth.

Food and snacks are ready for students. No student should have to come to school hungry. Nutritious snacks and meals are available daily. Early morning and evening hours will help students facing food insecurities take home bags every Friday.

A trusted adult is always available to listen, advocate, and connect students with the resources they need to thrive.

The Teen Center is made possible through the generosity of our community and sponsors. Those wishing to help out can: donate packaged food, snacks or hygiene supplies; providing monetary support, volunteering time or

skills; presenting at student workshops (career exploration, life skills, eat.)

Donations of any of the needed items can be dropped off at the main high school office.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Ash Grove Cement Foundation for their generous \$15,000 sponsorship of the new Teen Center at Juab High School," said Dr. Kodey Hughes, Juab School District Superintendent. "This donation will play an instrumental role in furnishing the space and covering essential start-up costs, allowing us to immediately begin supporting our students."

He said that it was an honor to welcome representatives from Ash Grove Cement—Michelle Kraus, Dustin Jarrett, and Darian Dickison—along with JHS Principal Todd Quarnberg, Teen Center Coordinator Heather Westring, and Sterling Scholars Gabe Settle, Max Hadlock, and Dawson Miller, who were instrumental in getting the center ready.

"This donation highlights the incredible community support for our students, and we can't wait to see the positive impact the Teen Center will continue to have. Thank you, Ash Grove Cement," he said.



DONATION • Heather Westring, center, received a \$15,000 donation from Ash Grove Cement that will help with start-up costs for the new Teen Center at Juab High School. She is pictured with representatives from Ash Grove, JHS Principal Todd Quarnberg, and JHS Sterling Scholars who have helped get the center ready. New Teen Center at JHS will help students feel safe, supported and ready to learn

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