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Posted: Wednesday, November 11, 2015 9:51 pm | Updated: 9:59 pm, Wed Nov 11, 2015.

by Brandon Mulder bmulder@mrt.com | 1 comment

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**HS BASKETBALL:** Tuesday's area roundup

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The 3.2-magnitude earthquake that struck Tuesday afternoon along the border of Reeves and Ward counties was the 12th earthquake in the southern area of the Permian Basin this year and the second this month, according to U.S. Geological Survey data. The two largest quakes, 3.3 on the Richter scale, occurred in April and August.

The most recent quake occurred at about 3:45 p.m. Tuesday and was imperceptible to the nearby towns of Monahans and Pecos, which lie about 25 miles northeast and northwest of the quake site — about 8 miles north of Coyoynosa.

"There's no damage out here, at least I haven't heard of any," said Pecos Mayor Venetta Seals. "Nothing has been reported."

The quakes, she said, "are not anything that we're really feeling or anything."

Without remote instruments closely tracking seismic activity in rural West Texas, many of the small quakes would largely go unnoticed.

"When the earthquakes are occurring in urban areas with lots of buildings and infrastructure, it tends to probably get a little bit more attention," said Michael Young, a University of Texas senior research scientist at the Bureau of Economic Geology.

Earthquakes of similar, or even smaller, magnitudes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area have grabbed dozens of headlines as researchers sought the cause of the unnerving events.

Two of the largest earthquakes in Texas history occurred in West Texas. In 1931, a 6.0 magnitude earthquake emanated from Valentine across 1 million square kilometers of West Texas, New Mexico and Mexico, according to the Texas State Historical Association. In April 1995, a 5.7 magnitude earthquake occurred near Alpine, sending shockwaves through the Permian Basin and Midland. Both of these quakes were naturally occurring, according to a 2012 report from the UT Institute for Geophysics.

Because dozens of earthquakes have rattled Metroplex communities, state lawmakers approved legislation during the last legislative session to roll out \$4.4 million worth of seismology equipment to beef up research into the sources of these quakes. The funds would pay for the TexNet Monitoring Program — a network of 22 permanent seismometer stations around the state, and 36 portable seismometers.

"We don't know up front where any kind of seismic activity may occur, so by having an even spread of the monitors -- a permanent array -- our goal is to be able to measure anything greater than a magnitude of 2.0," Young said. "If an event occurs and it's of a certain size and in a certain area, and it's something that we want to look at, then we can deploy these other portable seismometers much faster, typically 24 to 48 hours later, so that we can measure the

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### aftershocks."





The 22 permanent stations will supplement the pre-existing 16, which are owned and operated by the USGS or UT. They will be installed throughout 2016 as lease agreements and other arrangements are finalized.


"We should be able to pick up seismic activity events anywhere in the world, so they're very accurate," Young said. "They'll be able to pick up seismic events that may happen in other states —they'll become part of this international array (of monitoring stations), but they'll also pick up high enough frequencies that we can pick up close-by events, too."


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#### More about Earthquake

- ARTICLE: No injuries in West Texas earthquake, near Fort Stockton
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**BeeBee** posted at 7:25 am on Thu, Nov 12, 2015.

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The source of these quakes is simple. It's fracking. You can only put so many holes in the earth before it works to fill them back up. But let's stick our heads in the sand and buy seismic equipment and try to pretend we are not destroying the earth.

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