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Texas rocked by one of strongest earthquakes in state's history

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By **STACY LIBERATORE FOR DAILYMAIL.COM**

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Texas was rocked by a rare **earthqu**
reports across the western part of th

Residents reported their homes shoc
quake hit around 7:50pm local time.

The epicenter was identified in Mar
miles from Austin where residents als

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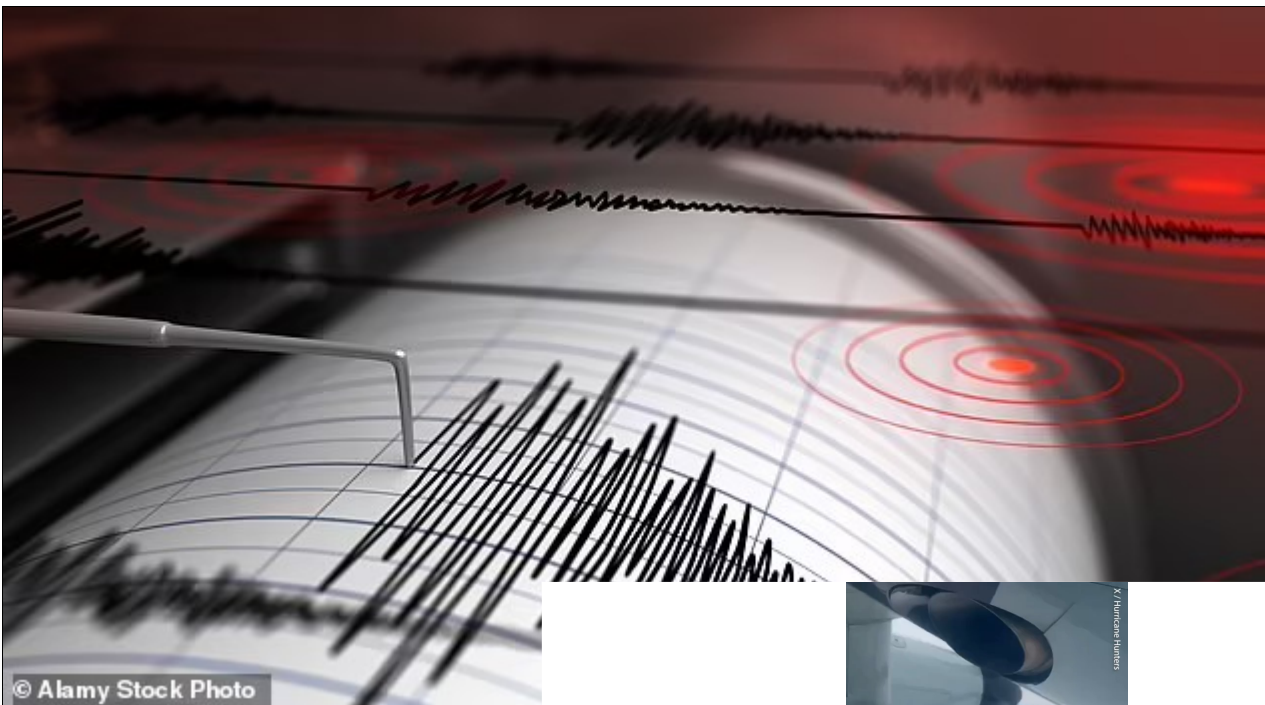
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The US Geological Survey (USGS) noted Monday's tremor was the seventh largest in the state's history - the strongest was a 6 magnitude in 1931.
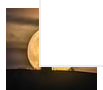

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West Texans reported shaking Monday e
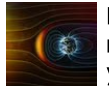**regions**

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The USGS reported that the earthquake struck about 21 miles west-southwest of Ackerly, or 28 miles north of Midland, at a depth of around three miles, which **suggested** all residents across West Texas felt the ground shake.

More than 3,600 earthquakes have been reported in Texas since 1900, with more than 70 reaching a magnitude 4 or higher and seven over a 5.

The one in 1931 rattled Valentine, causing buildings to collapse, concrete to crack and even rotated tombstones in the cemetery.

A smaller earthquake was also reported around midnight in Ackerly, measuring a 2.9 magnitude.

And the USGS shows a 40 percent chance of an aftershock reaching a 3 magnitude or higher.

A resident in San Angelo posted on X that it was the 'biggest one I've felt.'

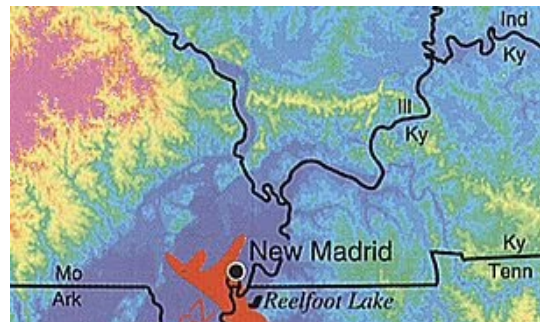Another user mentioned that fracking behind the quake.

James Monroe, with The University Texas, shared on the platform: 'This history to hit a magnitude of 5.0 or hi

'For a state more associated with oil

Scientists have been speculating tha largely due to hydraulic fracturing - a

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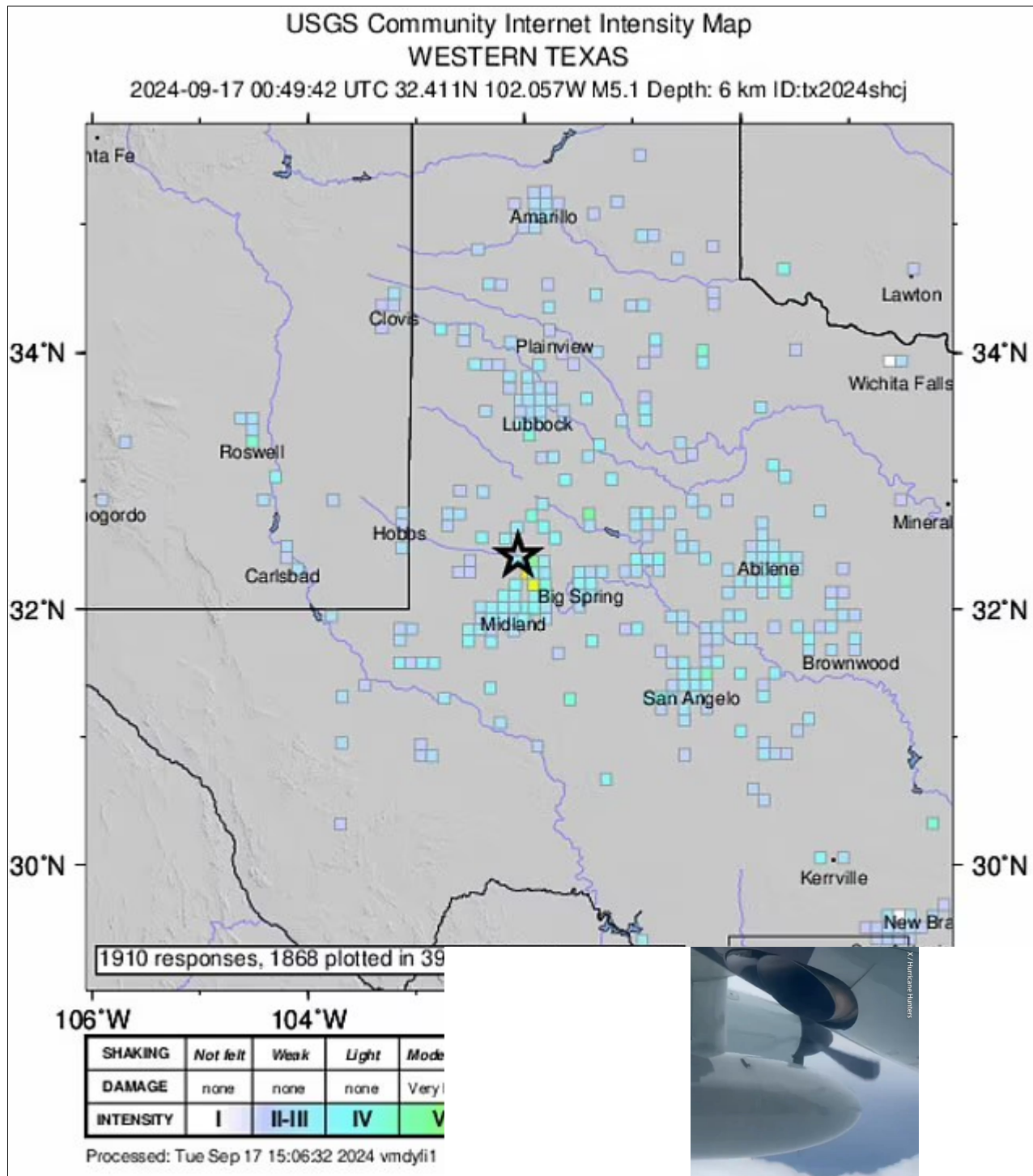
Fracking involves miners drilling deep into the earth's surface and releasing high-pressure water that creates a small explosion to release natural gas and oil that can be used to create energy.

USGS Community Internet Intensity Map
WESTERN TEXAS
2024-09-17 00:49:42 UTC 32.411N 102.057W M5.1 Depth: 6 km ID:tx2024shcj

1910 responses, 1868 plotted in 39

SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Mode
DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very l
INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V

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The US Geological Survey's website sho
shockwaves were felt as far as Austin th

Texas is listed as the number one sta
home to 279,615 oil and gas wells bu

The action brings groundwater to the surface and when it is injected back into the ground, it puts pressure on fault lines, resulting in more earthquakes.

'The practice of deep injection of oil field wastewater, known as saltwater disposal, has the strongest tie to the increase in the rate of earthquakes and to the strongest earthquakes that have occurred in recent years,' said Peter Hennings, research professor at The University of Texas's Bureau of Economic Geology.
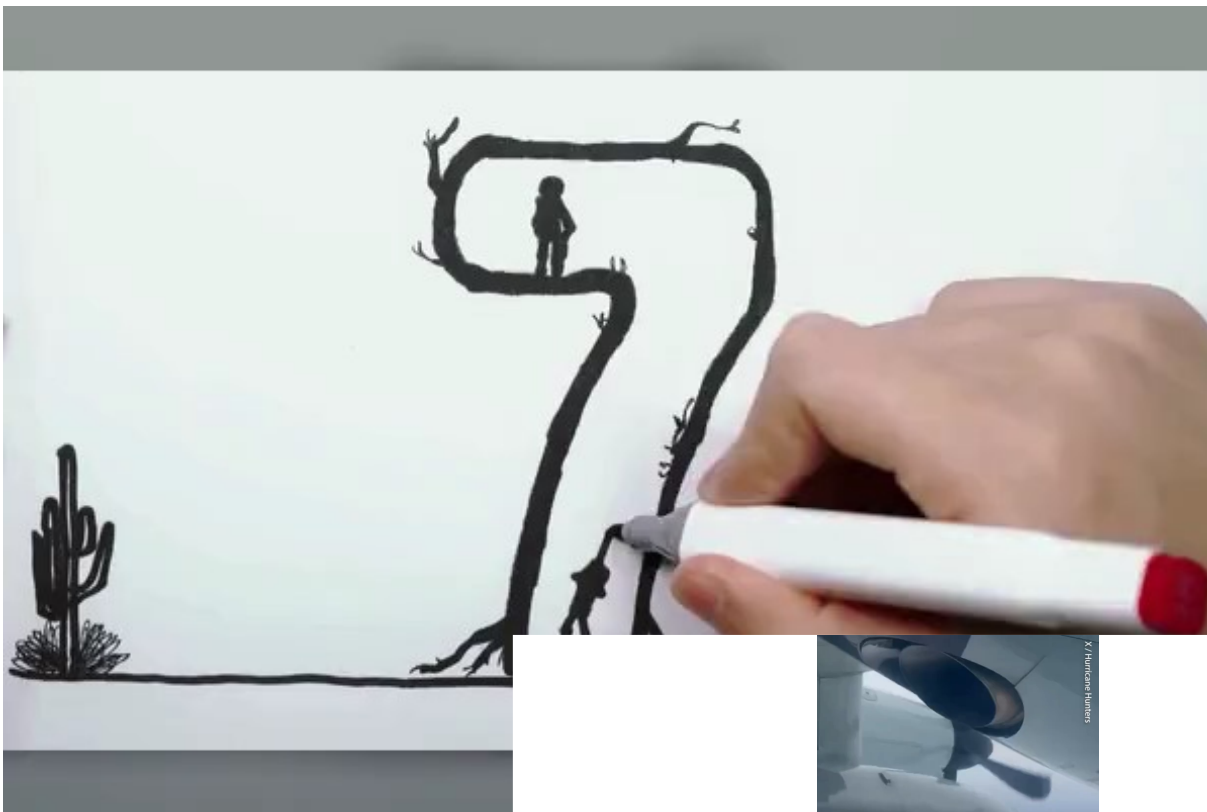
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