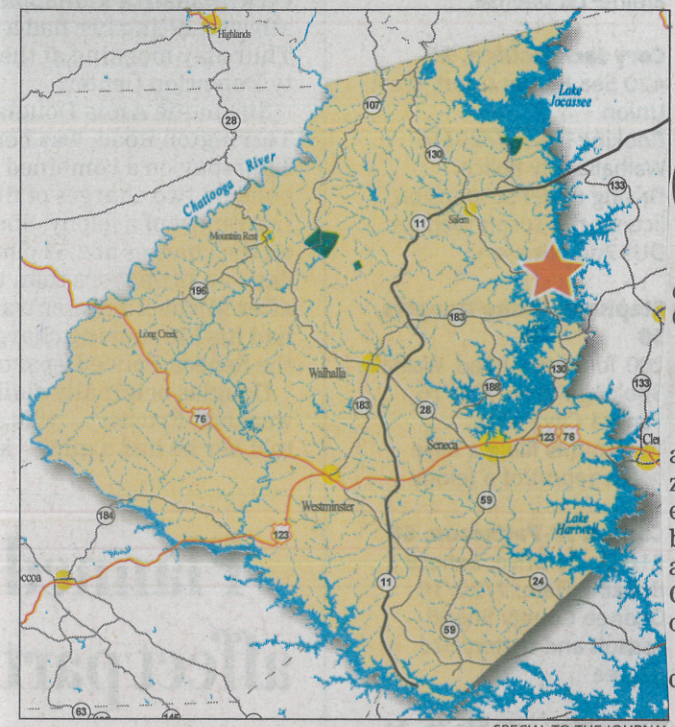


SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The red star on this map marks the location of the center of a minor earthquake registered Wednesday night in Oconee County.

Did you feel it?

USGS registers minor earthquake near Keowee

BY ERIC SPROTT
THE JOURNAL

It wasn't exactly one for the ages, and it likely wasn't felt by many, if any, but a minor earthquake was recorded in Oconee County on Wednesday night.

At 9:37 p.m., the United States Geological Survey reported a 1.9 magnitude quake along Lake Keowee at a depth of a little more than half a mile. According to the USGS, the event was centered 3.9 miles from Fall Creek and 11.9 miles from Clemson, and state geologist C.W. Clendenin joked it wasn't much to get riled up about.

"If you're lucky, it might have tilted the pictures on the wall, but outside of that, we just have those small earthquakes up in that area every so often," he said.

A South Carolina Geological Survey map located the epicenter of the quake just off North Flagship Drive in the Keowee Key community.

Three other earthquakes — ranging in magnitude from 1.9 to 2.0 — have originated in Oconee County since 2010, which Clendenin said is a product of being caught between the Tennessee

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QUAKE: 'People should have a little survival basket set up'

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and Charleston seismic zones. He added minor earthquakes have also been recently reported around Brevard and Columbus in North Carolina.

And while Wednesday's quake came and went quietly, Clendenin said it's important for residents to be prepared for earthquakes just like they would be any other natural disaster.

"These are come-as-you-are disasters, and basically, since we do have hurricanes and other problems, people should have a little survival basket set up so they could help themselves for up to three days before help could be mobilized if there really was a big earthquake," he said.

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