

QUAKE

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The most powerful earthquake in Idaho in 37 years hit Tuesday afternoon, and dozens of people in Baker County felt the shaking. The magnitude 6.5 temblor, which happened at 4:52 p.m. PDT, was strong enough to rattle windows in Baker City, about 128 miles from the epicenter near Stanley.

A map produced by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimates the quake’s intensity in Baker Valley was about 3.5, and about 4.0 in the Richland and Halfway areas, closer to the epicenter. Those estimates are based on more than a dozen reports submitted by local residents, said David Wald, a seismologist at the USGS National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado.

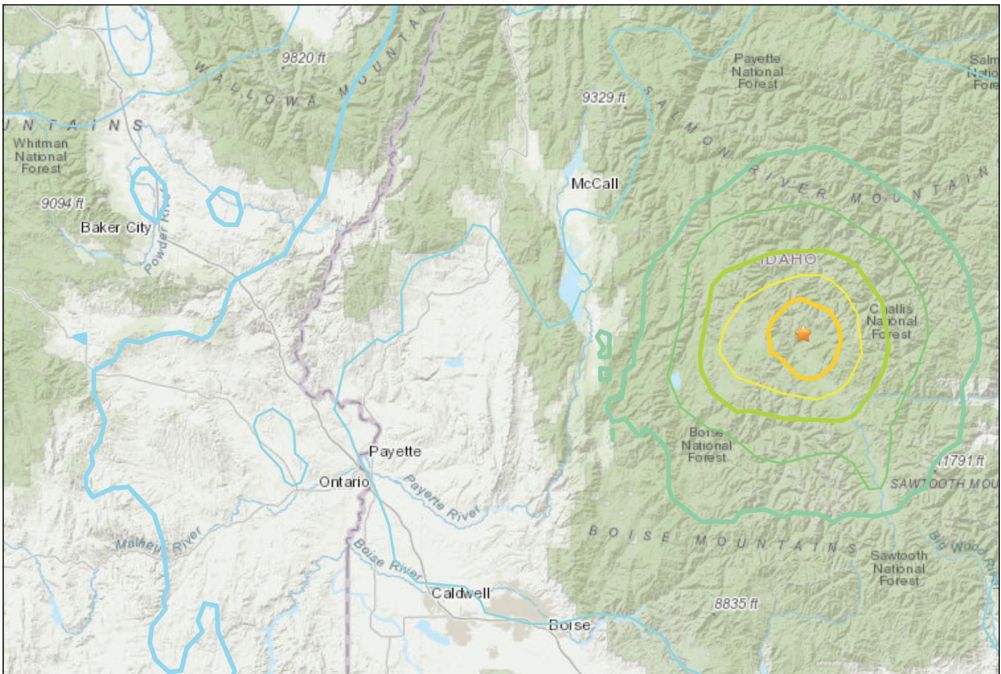
(Magnitude, measured by seismometers, is the strength of an earthquake at its epicenter. Intensities, by contrast, estimate the level of shaking at any given spot, including hundreds of miles from the epicenter, based mainly on residents’ reports. The two measurements are not synonymous — the estimated intensity of 3.5 in Baker Valley, for instance, doesn’t mean the effects were equal to what a magnitude 3.5 quake would have produced, had its epicenter been in the Baker Valley.)

Wald helped design the system — known as “Did You Feel It?” — that allows residents to report to the USGS what they felt during an earthquake.

Those reports are “invaluable,” Wald said, in creating the interactive “ShakeMaps” that the agency produces following a quake to give the public, and emergency management officials, a nearly immediate estimate about how severe shaking was over a wide area.

(The map for the Idaho quake is available at <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us70008jr5/map>)

The maps are important,



U.S. Geological Survey map

The map shows estimated intensities from Tuesday’s earthquake centered near Stanley, Idaho. Intensity measures the level of shaking, and is different from the magnitude, which is the single measurement of the strength at the epicenter. The star inside the small orange circle is the epicenter. The orange circle represents the extent of the area where the intensity was estimated at 6.5. Moving out, the yellow circle represents 6.0, the light green 5.5, dark green 5.0 and the slightly thicker green 4.5. The two blue circles in Baker County represent areas with an estimated shaking intensity of 3.5.

Wald said, because most places aren’t monitored by seismometers.

Wald said in a phone interview Wednesday morning that it was “astonishing” how many people, from multiple states, reported feeling the quake — 25,000 within an hour or so, and about 31,500 as of 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Wald described the Idaho temblor as the “perfect earthquake” because no one was hurt and there was no major damage, yet the quake generated a bounty of data from residents across the West. Although there are no seismometers in Baker Valley, there is one of the instruments near Sparta.

That seismometer, which measures peak ground acceleration and vertical motion — in effect, how intense the ground shakes during a quake — recorded levels below the usual threshold for damage, Wald said.

The intensity of shaking recorded by the monitors is consistent with what Baker City residents reported feeling, he said.

“Humans and instruments are saying the same thing,” Wald said.

Lynette Perry, a Baker City Council member, was sitting in a chair in her Baker City home when the chair, which rests on four rollers, began to move in a circular motion.

“It was a really unsettling feeling,” Perry said Wednesday morning. “I first thought, ‘am I having a stroke?’ ”

Then Perry heard the chimes, which hang in a room on the other side of her house, “start ringing like crazy.”

Perry said she felt dizzy, and slightly nauseated, for the next two to three hours.

Although Wald said Tuesday’s quake probably likely was too far from Baker City to result in any local damage, Dawn Kitzmiller, the Baker City/County building official, encourages residents to check their buildings for signs of effects, such as separation of mortar between bricks and new cracks in drywall or plaster.

Tuesday’s quake was the strongest in Idaho since a magnitude 6.9 quake on Oct. 28, 1983, near Borah Peak, southeast of Challis and about 60 miles east of the epicenter of Tuesday’s quake.

The 1983 quake, which happened on a different fault zone than Tuesday’s temblor, killed two people in Challis and caused more than \$12 million in damage.

Earthquakes strong enough for people to feel are relatively rare in Baker County.

The most seismically active part of the county over the past 20 years or so has been the Panhandle region in the eastern part.

In 1994 and 1998, seismometers detected dozens of small quakes near Brownlee Reservoir; the strongest one magnitude 3.9 in October 1994. Many residents in the Pine and Eagle valleys felt some of the quakes during that swarm of temblors.

In July 1998 more than a dozen quakes, the strongest measuring 3.5, happened along the Posey Valley fault near Halfway.

Several people felt a 2.9 quake in November 1998 near Bowen Valley, just south of Baker City.

In September 2003 a magnitude 3.3 quake happened along a fault near Love Reservoir, about 15 miles east of Baker City.

CANNING

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Although Brown plans to continue selling 6-packs and cases direct to customers outside, he also is working with distributors, in Oregon and in Idaho, to make cans of Pallet Jack available at grocery and other stores.

His top priority is stocking Baker City stores to make sure local residents — who normally would sip their Pallet Jack from a pint glass in the brew pub or the tap house, which occupies the west side of the brewery — can get the ale.

Brown said he won’t make a profit on the canning operation.

But he hopes to at least reduce the losses that would accrue if he had to watch beer trickle down a drain.

His current plan calls only for canning Pallet Jack, although he also has Hand Truck Pale Ale that’s ready to drink.

Considering the unprecedented challenges that have arrived so rapidly, and the uncertainty

“What’s the new normal going to be?”

— Tyler Brown, Barley Brown’s Brewery owner

of the next few months at least, Brown said he’s not ruling out anything.

“What’s the new normal going to be?” he pondered.

Demand for his beer might be slow to recover if diners are leery of returning to restaurants or, as he suspects is likely, some aren’t able to reopen at all.

“The timeline’s out of our control,” Brown said. “It’s a learning experience.”

And one that has forced him to adjust rapidly.

A month ago Brown might have shuddered at the prospect of Pallet Jack flowing from the stainless steel brewing vessels straight into cans.

On Tuesday morning he plucked a can right off the line, popped the top and had a swig.

“Quality control,” he says with a smile.

NEWS OF RECORD

DEATHS

Betty Myers: 80, a longtime Baker City resident, died March 30, 2020, at her home. A celebration of her life will be scheduled later. The family suggests memorial contributions to Hilary’s Benevolent Fund through Tami’s Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services, P.O. Box 543, Halfway, OR 97834. Online condolences can be made at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com

Millie A. “Millie” Wall: 92, of Baker City, died March 30, 2020, at Meadowbrook Place. Services for Millie will be scheduled later. ColesTribute Center is in charge of arrangements. To light a candle in memory of Millie, go to www.coles-tribute-center.com

Angelo J. Regina: 80, of Baker Valley, died March 31, 2020, at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City.

Services are under the direction of ColesTribute Center. To light a candle in memory of Angelo, go to www.coles-tributecenter.com

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police Arrests, citations
FOURTH-DEGREE ASSAULT: Jodi Lee Spriet, 48, of Baker City, 9:47 p.m. Tuesday, in the 1100 block of Park St.; jailed and later released on bail.

Baker County Sheriff’s Office

Arrests, citations
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS: Stephanie Jill Benson, 46, of 44368 Brown Road, 11:59 p.m. Monday, at Brown Road and Sky Ranch Lane; cited and released after a deputy was called to investigate a report of a noninjury motor vehicle crash.

OBITUARIES

Melanie Hagen-Trebilcock

Baker City, 1973-2020
Melanie (Mel) Lynn Hagen-Trebilcock, 46, of Baker City, died unexpectedly on March 27, 2020, due to a severe asthma attack.

Her family asks for your patience, as they navigate these uncharted waters concerning Melanie’s arrangements. They are counseling together as a family as to how to best accommodate everyone during these uncertain times. They will notify everyone about any developments concerning their arrangements.



Melanie Hagen-Trebilcock

Melanie was born on June 3, 1973, at Caldwell, Idaho, the daughter of Kathy Jane Heitz and Bill Joe Hagen. She grew up at Fruitland, Idaho, and attended Fruitland High School. She then went out to receive her high school diploma shortly after giving birth to her first son, Cory. Melanie faced many challenges while raising Cory, including being a single mother, working to support her son and complete her education — a position that many of our sisters face today.

In 1995, Melanie met the love of her life, Thomas, and they dated for three years

before FINALLY getting married in 1998. They expanded their family and moved from Idaho, to Georgia, and finally settling down in Baker City.

Melanie was a very influential and maternal figure, with her concern for others being unlike any other! Her work ethic was outstanding, and her services were wanted by many. Melanie was involved in charity work such as Relay for Life, and other community-based organizations, including F.A.F.A, and she was heavily involved in taking care of others and treating them as if they were family. She truly exemplified the definition of charity and understood the meaning of empathy and compassion, but be warned “don’t mistake her meekness, for weakness.”

She knew what she wanted and would protect her family like a Mother Lion, if need be. Melanie loved camping with her family, and her favorite spot was right next to the campfire. She also enjoyed watching her favorite TV shows and movies with her family, snowboarding, and playing Candy Crush Saga on her phone (she made it to level 3,848!). Melanie affected everyone she met positively, her most notable feature being her big smile, and the importance she held in her heart for family and friends.

Melanie is survived by her husband, Thomas, and four children: Cory Dustin, McKayla Cheyenne Berkheimer-Trebilcock, Gabriela Paige, and Elizabeth Jayne; and three grandchildren. She is also survived by her mother, Ms. Kathy Heitz; her sister, Mrs. Pamela Heitz Zemmer; multiple siblings, numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her son, Samuel Elijah Trebilcock; her father, Bill Joe Hagen; and her stepfather, James Howard Heitz.

Her family and friends humbly ask that we all strive to emulate her example in our everyday lives. That we honor her memory, by keeping alive the principles she practiced in her everyday life.

Melanie was taken from us much too soon, but her family can feel her urging them forward. It is through her strength, the support of family and friends, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, that they are able to press on, and live their lives in a manner befitting her legacy. They are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support these many days and invoke the blessings of Heaven upon you all.

Memorial contributions in memory of Melanie can

be made to a charity of one’s choice through Gray’s West & Company Pioneer Chapel, 1500 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814.

To light a candle in memory of Melanie, or to leave a condolence for her family, go to www.grayswestco.com

Dora Kay Boren-Gardner

Formerly of Baker City, 1962-2020

Dora Kay Boren-Gardner 57, a former Baker City resident, died on March 26, 2020, at Greenville, North Carolina, after fighting a courageous battle against leukemia. She remained a real trooper as she fought this terrible disease.



Dora Kay Boren-Gardner

There will be a celebration of her life in Baker City to be announced at a later date due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Dora was born on July 2, 1962, at Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande to Marvin “Bud” and Ethel Boren of Baker City. She was the seventh of seven children. She attended Brooklyn Grade School and Baker Junior and Senior High, graduating in May of 1981. Dora then attended Culinary School at Clark Community College in Vancouver, Washington, from September 1981 to June

1983.

She moved and worked in Boise in the summer of 1983 and met Alvin Christopher Gardner, and they married later that year. They had one son, Alvin Christopher Gardner Jr., in September 1985. They divorced in December 1986.

Dora lived most of her life in Baker City and worked for many years at the Baker Truck Corral.

The past four years she had been living in Greenville, North Carolina, to be near her son, Chris.

Dora loved animals, especially dogs, and always had a dog. Everyone says her furry friend Cali was treated like a princess.

Survivors include her

beloved son, Alvin Christopher “Chris” Gardner Jr. of Greenville, North Carolina; four brothers, Newton Jackson “Jack” Falls and his wife, Barbara, of Lakeview, Arthur Thomas “Tom” Falls and his wife, Lorraine, of Hammond, Oregon, Bob Lester Boren, and Bill Loren Boren; two sisters, Barbara “Irene” Falls-Curtis and her husband, Paul, of Boise, and Martha Faye Boren (Michael) of Sandy, Oregon; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dora was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin Alma “Bud” Boren and Ethel Irene Van Cleave-Falls-Boren.

Dora requested that her ashes be brought back to Baker City and scattered in the Elkhorn Mountains.

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