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Mercury News Staff and Wire Reports

The Santa Cruz Mountains were jostled early Thursday by two small quakes within a minute of

each other, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The first quake hit at 1:09 a.m. followed by another at 1:10 a.m., said USGS spokeswoman Pat Jorgenson. The quakes were estimat-

ed at about 2.0 and 3.0 on the

Richter scale, centered about 16 miles southwest of San Jose near the San Andreas Fault. Quakes of that magnitude occur

somewhere in the Bay Area roughly once a week and usually go unnoticed. On Tuesday, two quakes measuring 3.1 and 2.7 were reported on the San Andreas Fault and

were believed to be aftershocks of

the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.