
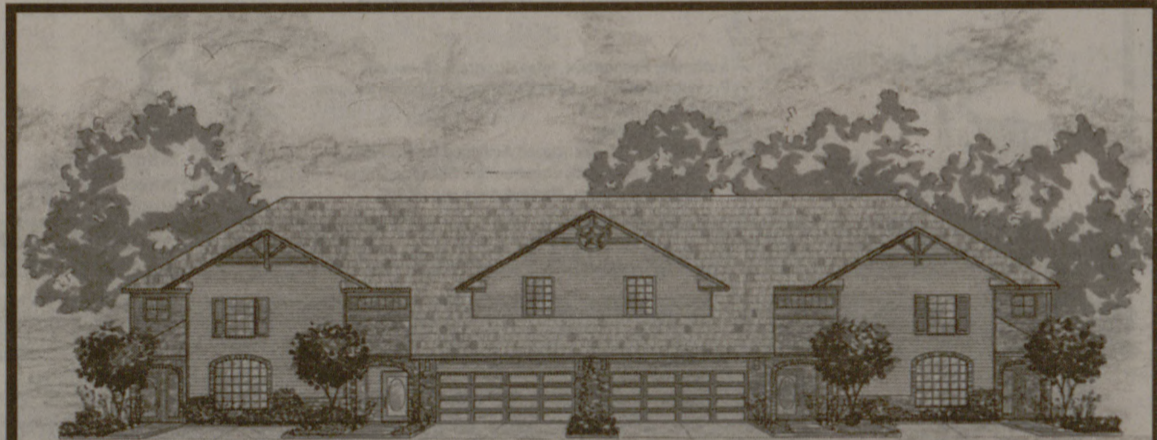


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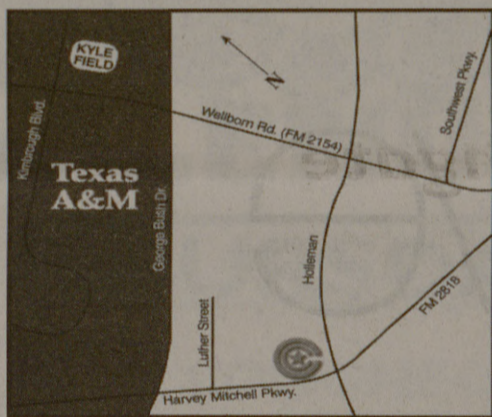
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Unmanned jetliner rolls through fence into street

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A parked jetliner waiting for maintenance began rolling and smashed through an airport fence Wednesday, coming to a stop with its nose blocking a side street.

"It was parked overnight outside a hanger for maintenance. Somehow it moved. They don't know how. No one was on it. It's under investigation," Los Angeles International Airport spokesperson Harold Johnson said. It wasn't being towed or moved, he said.

Investigators were trying to determine if the American Airlines 767's parking brake was properly set, Johnson said. He did not know who parked the jet or if the small blocks normally put next to airplane wheels to keep the plane from moving had been used.

There were no injuries, and airport operations were not affected, he said. But the plane cut a telephone line.



SOURCES: Associated Press; FAA; ESRI

"An investigation is under way as to how the aircraft managed to move on its own," American Airlines said in a statement issued from its Fort Worth, Texas, office.

Airport spokesperson Nancy Castles said one of the plane's engines was scratched, so the Federal Aviation Administration will have to ensure it is flight-worthy. That was the only apparent damage to the aircraft.

FAA spokesman Jerry Snyder said investigators were looking into the aircraft's

maintenance procedures.

The accident was reported at 8:50 a.m. along World West, a little-used road at the western edge of the airport used primarily by maintenance employees. The jet was only about 60 feet, but it was enough to get the nose 100 feet into the street and power lines, officials said.

Power was shut down at several nearby buildings and lights so the jet could be removed. The plane was towed to the maintenance

Drug could help build muscle

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a couch potato's dream: Instead of sweating and straining, people someday may simply pop a pill to get in shape, say researchers who have identified how muscle cells get stronger from regular exercise.

Researchers at Duke University and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have found the chemical pathway that muscle cells use to build up their strength and endurance.

With this basic knowledge in hand, it may now be possible to develop a pill that pumps up muscle cells without all that exercise, said Dr. R. Sanders Williams, dean of the Duke University School of Medicine.

"That may be one of the possibilities," said Williams.

But, as a physician, Williams said the main target of the research is to help people with heart disease or other conditions that keep them from doing enough exercise to remain healthy.

"This could lead to drugs that will let people get the health benefits of regular exercise, even if they cannot exercise," said Williams. This could improve the health of patients with heart or lung disease, or lower the risk of diabetes II, for instance.

"It is possible it could become a drug of abuse because it would enhance the performance of athletes," he said.

In the study, Williams and his colleagues

tested a group of mice with genes that expressed a signaling protein called calmodulin-dependent protein kinase, or CaMK. When the signaling protein is activated, it and another protein, calcineurin, trigger the physical changes that muscle cells undergo after intense exercise.

Williams said that mice with a high level of CaMK expression developed more mitochondria in muscle cells and saw an increase of a type of cell called the "slow twitch" muscle. These muscle cells that power sustained activity, as required by marathon runners.

The researchers found that mice with high levels of CaMK developed the same healthy muscle cells as mice that did exercise.

"The effect increases more of the slow twitch muscles, but also increases the number of mitochondria in the fast twitch muscle cells," he said. "That's very similar to what happens in very intense training."

Mitochondria are structures inside a cell that provide energy by metabolizing oxygen and nutrients. Cells with many mitochondria produce more work over a long time. Physical training increases the number of mitochondria in muscle cells.

Williams said that a drug that would target the CaMK muscle signaling pathway has not been found, but now that there is a specific target it should make the development easier.

"This could lead to drugs that will let people get the health benefits of regular exercise, even if they cannot exercise."

— Dr. R. Sanders Williams
 Duke University
 School of Medicine

NEWS IN BRIEF

Passenger held for self-heating shoes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A man was detained briefly Wednesday at the San Francisco airport after batteries and wires were spotted in his shoes.

The shoes were blown up by police, even after it was determined

they were not dangerous and contained no explosives. The shoes apparently were designed to heat up and keep the wearer's feet warm, said airport spokesperson Ron Wilson.

The man had arrived as part of a tour from Shanghai to New York. The suspicious shoes were spotted in his carry-on luggage as he tried to pass through a gate in an United Airlines terminal to catch a

connecting flight, Wilson said. Wilson said the man speaks Chinese and could not explain what the shoes were for or how to connect the batteries.

Police took the shoes to an isolated area to examine them, he said. Wilson said a preliminary background check of the man turned up nothing suspicious. The man's name was not released.

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