

Sheriff quits in wake of investigation

LOCKHART (AP) — Caldwell County Sheriff Elvin Hoskins has resigned in the wake of an investigation into allegations he forced county prisoners to work at his farm.

Hoskins resigned Wednesday after a district court grand jury failed to return an indictment against him.

There was no indication of whether Hoskins' resignation was part of an agreement by prosecutors not to pursue charges against him.

"It was a very secretive investigation," County Judge Bill Ellison told the *San Antonio Express-News*.

The grand jury met early Wednesday to consider accusations the sheriff used county prisoners to work on his farm and at other private businesses in Caldwell County, county officials said.

Jeff Van Horn, district attorney for Caldwell County, said he removed himself from the investigation to keep it from becoming political.

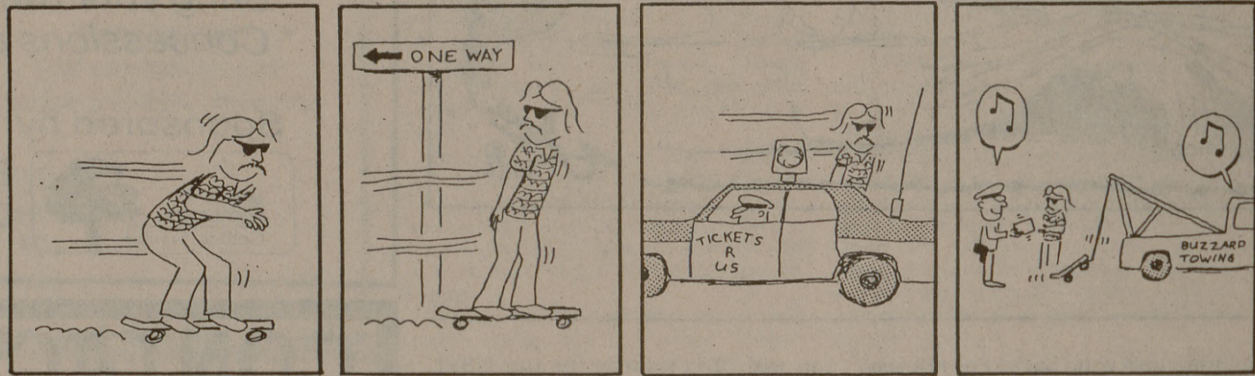
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Drug may reduce risk of 'small' heart attacks

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A study partially conducted in San Antonio shows people who suffer "small" heart attacks can benefit from a drug that can drastically reduce their risk for a second more serious one.

Results of the four-year study were published in Thursday's editions of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study showed the calcium-blocking drug diltiazem reduced the occurrence of a second heart attack by 51 percent.

Fifty South Texas victims of small heart attacks participated in the study at Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital.

"What it means is that here is the first treatment that has been shown to reduce the incidence of recurrent

heart attacks in these patients," explained Dr. Michael Crawford, principal investigator of the local research project.

Crawford, a professor of medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center, said a "small" heart attack does not cut off all blood to the heart.

"Although this usually means less extensive injury to the heart, these

patients run a 15 percent to 20 percent risk of having a second heart attack within a year," he said.

Small heart attacks account for a third of all heart attacks annually.

Another eight medical centers in the United States and Canada participated in the diltiazem study.

Diltiazem is commonly used to treat heart disease-caused chest pain called angina pectoris.

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