



## Health board sticks with Hentges as chairwoman

By Sarah Nightingale | AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

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The Lubbock Health Board voted Friday to keep the same leader, cementing its focus on tackling Lubbock's obesity problem.

Kae Hentges was unanimously elected to serve as chairwoman until December. The retired community health educator was appointed to the board in 2005 and became chairwoman in January.

Board member Steve Presley, a researcher at Texas Tech's Institute of Environmental and Human Health, was appointed by Hentges to serve as secretary. Pres-ley has served on the board since last year.

Hentges told The Avalanche-Journal last year she planned to boost local education on obesity and its causes, and help the aging population. In addition to partnering with local health organizations, Hentges hopes the board's recommendations can be translated into new city initiatives and ordinances.

On Friday, the board met with Chris Lonngren, a member of the Lubbock Restaurant Association and owner of Schlotzsky's Deli in Lubbock. The board plans to work with local restaurants to highlight healthful menu choices, Hentges said.

"If the board is interested in looking at this issue, we'd take it up," said Lonngren, who added that many franchises and large chains already offer lower-calorie menu items.

Also at the meeting, Rick West, the health department's vector control manager, said his department just began spraying for summer mosquitoes. Statewide, only one sample - in Harris County - has tested positive for West Nile virus, West said. Lubbock County recorded about 15 positive mosquitoes last year, but no cases were recorded in humans, he said.

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