School board change could mean more evolution fights

TOPEKA (AP) - Comingchanges in the state school board mean Kansas is likely to return to evolution-friendly education standards — and remain mired in a fight over how the theory is taught in classrooms.

Conservative Republicans lost control of the State Board of Education on Tuesday only nine months after they had enacted science standards expressing doubt about evolutionary theory. Critics saw the standards as an attack on evolution, and Kansas received international ridicule as a result.

The conservative board majority was 6-4 going into this year's election, and moderate Republicans unseated one conservative incumbent and captured a seat held by a retiring conservative in Tuesday's primary elections. That left the balance of power at 6-4 in favor of moderates who believe the standards should reflect mainstream scientific views — and treat evolution as a well-established theory.

Both sides conceded Wednesday that evolution will remain an issue in future board races, whatever the

"It will continue forever," said John Calvert, a retired Lake Quivira attorney who helped found the Intelligent Design Network, which attacks evolution. "It will never

Since 1998, conservative Republicans have captured and lost a board majority twice. The result was anti-evolution standards in 1999, evolution-friendly ones in 2001 and anti-evolution ones again

Board member Sue Gamble, a pro-evolution Shawnee Republican, said the standards will be "high on the list" of issues to tackle after new board members take their seats in January. So will last year's hiring of Bob Corkins as education commissioner, though he had no experience as a school administrator.

The standards will be used in drafting tests for students, which measure how well they're learning science — and whether schools need to improve. But the decision of what is taught in the classroom is left to 296 local boards of educa-

Some educators are prepared for the board to flip back and forth between anti- and pro-evolution stan-

"We have to rely on science teachers to teach the best science state board says," said Cindy Shepherd-Adams, who teaches physical sciences at Hays High School.

Still, many scientists and science teachers worry that conservatives

agement Strategies.

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It will continue forever." John Calvert,

attorney

could use the standards to encourage schools to incorporate intelligent design into their lessons.

Intelligent design holds that some features of the universe are best explained by an unnamed intelligent cause because they are complex and well-ordered. Critics view it as repackaged creationism, though backers of the latest standards believe they would encourage a more open discussion of evolution's flaws.

Five of 10 board seats are on the ballot this year. Four were held by conservatives, but one of the GOP incumbents, Iris Van Meter of Thayer, decided not to seek re-election. The fifth seat is held by Janet Waugh, a Kansas City Democrat who supports evolution-friendly

In Tuesday's primaries, conservative incumbent Connie Morris, of St. Francis, lost the 5th District GOP primary in western Kansas to Sally Cauble, a moderate from Liberal who argues that evolution is compatible with religion. Morris had derided evolution as a "fairy tale."

Moderates won in Van Meter's 9th District, when Jana Shaver, the pro-evolution candidate, won the GOP nomination. Waugh also fended off a conservative challenger in the Democratic primary and faces no opposition in the Nov. 7 general election.

John Bacon, of Olathe, and Ken Willard, of Hutchinson, both conservatives who supported the antievolution standards, held off two challengers each. However, both face Democratic opponents who are likely to receive support from moderate Republicans.

One of Bacon's unsuccessful challengers was Harry McDonald, of Olathe, the former president of Kansas Citizens for Science and among the most vocal critics of the board's actions. That fact was not lost on John West, a vice president for the Center for Science and Culture at the Seattle-based, anti-evolution Discovery Institute.

"This is a national debate," West said. "Efforts to try to stop discusthey can, regardless of what the sion are ultimately going to be doomed to fail because Americans don't like censorship. It used to be said that if you wanted to generate interest, you'd get your book banned in Boston."

Christian area of Lebanon bombed

Israel's pounding of Hezbollah positions across Lebanon expanded Friday with missiles targeting bridges in the Christian heartland north of Beirut for the first time, an attack that further isolates Lebanon from the outside world.

Five civilians were killed and 19 wounded in the airstrikes north of the capital, Lebanese security officials said. A Lebanese soldier and four civilians were killed in air raids near Beirut's airport and southern suburbs, security officials and witnesses said.

The destruction of four bridges on the main north-south coastal highway linking Beirut to Syria further sealed Lebanon from outside links, as the Israeli naval blockade and earlier strikes against roadways have largely closed off other access points.

Fierce fighting continued along the border, and Hezbollah said in a statement broadcast by the group's

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — las had killed six Israeli soldiers near sador told CNN early Friday. the villages of Aita al-Shaab and Markaba.

Arab media reported Hezbollah had hit an Israeli tank. The Israeli army was not immediately available to comment on the claims.

The clashes came a day after a massive barrage of guerrilla rockets pounded northern Israel, killing eight people, and an offer by Hezbollah's leader to stop the attacks if Israel ends its airstrikes. Two more rockets hit northern Israel early Friday, causing little damage.

Israel's United Nations ambassador. Dan Gillerman, said that Sheik Hassan Nasrallah's offer of a truce was "a sign of weakness ... and he may be looking for a way out."

Gillerman warned against Hezbollah threats to launch rockets on Israel's commercial center of Tel Aviv. "We are ready for it, and I am sure that he (Nasrallah), as well as his sponsors, realize the consequences of doing something as unimaginable Al-Manar TV station that guerril- and crazy as that," the Israeli ambas-

The Israeli military said the targets of the latest attacks in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahieh were Hezbollah facilities and a Hamas office. Beirut media said Israel

South Beirut has been attacked repeatedly by Israeli warplanes since fighting began July 12. It is predominantly a Shiite Muslim sector largely controlled by Hezbollah guerrillas, army prepared to push up to and Israel has not struck Beirut proper since the start of the war.

The strikes early Friday hit the affluent Christian locality of Jounieh, north of the capital, for the first time. The bombing against the picturesque coastal resort marked a sharp expansion of Israel's attack on Lebanon, which now threatens Christian areas where Hezbollah has no support and no presence.

Israeli artillery intensified bombing overnight, sometimes sending as many as 15 shells per minute against from destroyed by the fighting.

suspected Hezbollah strongholds.

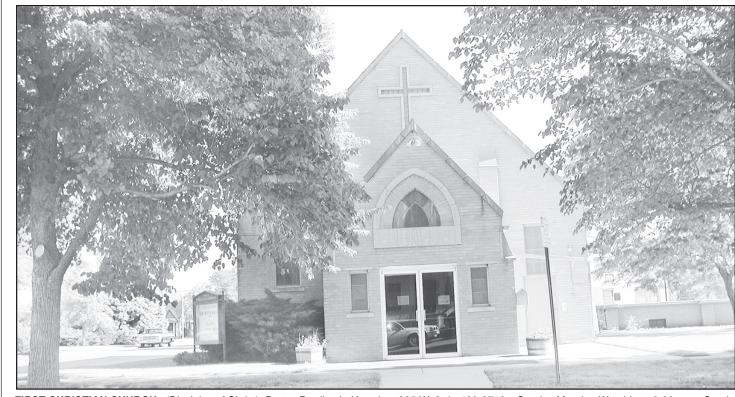
On the second front of its offensive against Islamic militants, Israel began pulling tanks out of southern Gaza after a two-day incursion, after aircraft fired at cluslaunched 24 bombing runs in an ters of militants. The heavy clashes killed eleven Palestinians, including an 8-year-old boy.

Despite Hezbollah's truce offer and continuing diplomatic efforts to broker a cease-fire, the Israeli Lebanon's Litani River, about 20 miles north of the border, as part of its campaign to force the guerrillas away from the border and make room for a planned international force to patrol the area.

In the 24th day of Israel's punishing onslaught, Hezbollah has shown surprising strength and has found its support in Lebanon vastly bolstered. With calls for a In the hills of southern Lebanon, cease-fire growing more intense, it appeared likely that Hezbollah would emerge damaged but far

weekend.

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PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

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BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Summer Worship Service, 9:30

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BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/ Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

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