

chairman Thomas Kennedy, who has held the position for two terms. Powers' first meeting as chair will be in December. Ginger Bryant was elected vice chairwoman.

The meeting was also Sandy Balfour's last. She will remain a working board member until Dec. 1, when she heads to the Academy of Environmental Science to shadow Lead Educator Ben Stofcheck before assuming his role on Jan. 4, 2016.

A total of \$7,500 in donations were approved for the Marine Science Station, Forest Ridge Elementary, Citrus High School, Crystal River High School and Le-canto High School.

Attorney Wes Bradshaw was rehired as the board's attorney, and also granted permission to review the cases between Goodfellas and the county, with the understanding that the district has an interest in the case, but is not joining any lawsuits.

—Andrew Caplan/staff writer

Homosassa RaceTrac to be remodeled

The RaceTrac at U.S. 19, just north of West Homosassa Trail, will close for remodeling starting Monday.

The gas pumps will still be operable and many of the store amenities, including coffee, bottled beverages and snacks, will be available for purchase from a mobile unit set up in the parking lot.

Tamekia Massaline, the chain's associate manager of communications, said the remodel will include exterior stone accents. Inside, there will be an expanded coffee bar and beverage area, a frozen yogurt bar, premium food offerings and free Wi-Fi.

Massaline said the re-opening is scheduled for sometime in January. The new store will have about 5,000 square feet and feature outdoor seating.

—Michael D. Bates/staff writer

IMS students choose Lincoln over Trump

ANDREW CAPLAN
Staff writer

Abraham Lincoln is president again, Benjamin Franklin is a U.S. senator and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is Florida's governor.

That is, according to the recent results of a mock election held at Inverness Middle School on Friday.

The school teamed up with the Susan Gill, the county's supervisor of elections, for two days to help seventh-grade students better understand how to vote, the process of elections and their importance.

It's also in accordance with the Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act of 2013, which requires middle school students to successfully complete civic education courses to advance grade levels.

On Thursday, Gill teamed up with District Superintendent Sandra "Sam" Himmel. On Friday, Gill was accompanied by district staff members Mark Klauder, the executive director of educational services, and Beth Bedee, the teacher on special assignment for social studies.

"I think a lot of people think it's not being taught at all, and it is," Gill said. "It's important



Amanda Badessa, a seventh-grader at Inverness Middle School, fills in a mock election ballot Thursday morning as part of a civics lesson that featured a visit by the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections.

(students) understand the relationship between their life and the government."

Gill shared information on presidential primaries, which are run by state and local governments, and caucuses, which are private events run by political parties. She explained how national Democratic and Republican conventions work before passing out ballots.

Donald Whitaker, a seventh-grade civics teacher, said he invited to Gill because he wanted



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

students to hear the information from someone in the civics field. Bedee agreed.

"They soak it in so much better rather than hearing from myself," Whitaker said.

Whitaker also said students enjoyed and have remembered nearly everything from the sessions.

During the mock election, students filled out their ballots and lined up to insert the sheets into Gill's election machine, which tallied 62 votes across three classes.

Afterward, students were given pencils and "I Voted" stickers.

Gill said she thinks the two-day event was a success, saw many intrigued faces and was glad the students asked questions. It showed they were paying attention, she said with a smile.

And as for the also-rans? Donald Trump received two write-in votes for the governorship and Bill Nye ("the Science Guy") received one.

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Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Susan Gill addresses two seventh-grade civics classes Thursday morning.

No longer a given that Florida will support Rubio or Bush

Associated Press

ORLANDO — It's no longer a safe assumption that one of Florida's two most popular Republicans will carry the presidential primary in their home state, as most of the GOP candidates turned

their attention Friday to the state's winner-take-all primary.

Sen. Marco Rubio and former Gov. Jeb Bush no longer lead the polls in Florida, where Republicans are gravitating toward outsiders Donald Trump and Ben Carson. And party activists showed as

much, if not more, enthusiasm for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz than they did for Rubio and Bush during the first day of a two-day presidential summit organized by the state GOP.

"I think most everybody, even the candidates, thought that this was going to be a contest between

Rubio and Bush," former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said after addressing the crowd. "I don't know that's the case anymore."

Fourteen candidates were scheduled to speak over the two days, a sign that they still consider Florida to be important.