



# NFC CHAMPIONSHIP: N.Y. GIANTS AT 49ERS

3:30 p.m. today, Candlestick Park, San Francisco; Fox TV

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SUNDAY

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## Monterey County

# The Herald

Sunday, January 22, 2012

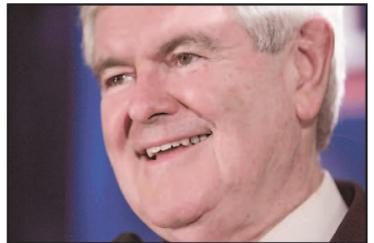
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## South Carolina: Ex-speaker rides momentum from debates into primary Gingrich rallies for big win



MATT FOURKE/Associated Press

Newt Gingrich speaks during a South Carolina Republican presidential primary rally on Saturday.

By STEVEN THOMMA, DAVID LIGHTMAN and GINA SMITH  
McClatchy Newspapers

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Newt Gingrich surged to a landslide victory in the South Carolina Republican primary Saturday, a stunning come-from-behind upset that shook the contest for the party's presidential nomination.

Mitt Romney came in second, a crushing loss for the one-time front-runner, his hopes dashed for a quick

and triumphant march toward the title.

With 94 percent of precincts reporting, Gingrich had 40 percent, Romney had 27 percent, Rick Santorum had 17 percent, and Ron Paul had 13 percent.

Gingrich, the former congressman from Georgia and speaker of the House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999, stormed into the lead in five fast-paced days punctuated by his commanding performances in two debates.

Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, finished a disappointing second after watching his double-digit lead in state polls evaporate amid charges that he's a wealthy corporate raider with something to hide in offshore bank accounts and personal tax records that he's declined to disclose.

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum finished a distant third as social conservatives refused to rally

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### HERALD QUESTION OF THE DAY

How do you feel about Newt Gingrich's primary victory in South Carolina?

- Happy
- Unhappy
- I don't care

Go to: [montereyherald.com](http://montereyherald.com) to place your vote  
Herald surveys are unscientific



### Next GOP debate

- **What:** GOP candidates' debate
- **When:** 6 p.m. Monday
- **Where:** University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.
- **Television:** NBC

## Whale of a time



DAVID ROYAL/The Herald

Kim Rogers, a CSU Monterey Bay student majoring in environmental science technology and policy, waves to children while dressed in a whale costume on Saturday at Whalefest Monterey 2012 on Fisherman's Wharf. Proceeds from the event benefit nonprofit marine organizations.

### WATER

## RMC desal bills fuzzy on work for county

### INVOICES INCLUDE TASKS FOR OTHER PROJECT PARTNERS

By JIM JOHNSON  
Herald Staff Writer

A review of bills from RMC Water and Environment for work on the ill-fated regional desalination project raises a number of questions, including exactly what the county would be getting for its money.

In addition to listing nearly \$700,000 of charges for work on the project from early January through late August 2011, RMC's invoices to the county Water Resources Agency include a long list of tasks and other items for which the project manager is seeking payment.

But it's not clear what portion of the work is being charged to the county water agency because the invoices include tasks done for all three project partners: the county, California American Water and Marina Coast Water District.

The \$400 million desal project was intended to provide a replacement source of water for Peninsula customers facing a state-ordered cutback in pumping from the Carmel River by 2016.

RMC's unpaid bills represent the bulk of about \$1.43 million in project-related charges the agency is asking to pay through a Cal Am credit line. A formal request to lift a cap on borrowing from the company is scheduled to

Please see Bills page A9



RMC's invoices to the county Water Resources Agency are available under the Board of Supervisors' supplemental agenda for Tuesday. To view them, see [www.co.monterey.ca.us/cob](http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/cob).



County's 12 city leaders gather regularly to discuss issues and compare ideas

## Mayors' group keeps it casual, most of the time

By LARRY PARSONS  
Herald Staff Writer

The first Friday of every month finds most, if not all, the mayors of Monterey County getting together for what could be called a very "yer honor"-able lunch.

The 90-minute meetings of the 12 members of the Monterey County Mayors' Association rotate monthly through each of the county's 12 cities in a neat scheduling symmetry.

Carmel Mayor Sue McCloud, who has been a member for a

### Inside

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dozen years, calls it a casual gathering where the city leaders usually receive a briefing on what's happening in Sacramento and in county government, hear a speaker and discuss issues of mutual municipal interest.

"The only power is . . . to build networks, share resources, get to know who everybody is and what our concerns are," said McCloud. But the association recently

provided a launching pad for a push by six Peninsula cities to form a new government entity to take a leading role in the long, drawn-out battle to develop a new water supply project for the Peninsula, which is under orders to sharply reduce Carmel River pumping.

Occasionally, the mayors' association takes a position on a countywide or state issue. And it has — out of solidarity with the Peninsula and its tourism industry — played a role in the Peninsula water battle.

In 2009, the mayors' group urged the state water board to ease off on a proposed order on Carmel River pumping, citing "the public health, safety and welfare of the Peninsula communities."

The group's letterhead, which features a dozen city seals down the left margin, offers a more potent show of unity than individual communiques from each city, she said.

The group also has worked to

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### Breaking News

On the Web  
montereyherald.com



Dave and Wendy Banks teach villagers during Peace Corps experience

## Tanzania mission fulfills dream for Carmel couple



REG REGALADO/Herald Correspondent  
Dave and Wendy Banks were finally able to serve as Peace Corps volunteers.

By AMY E. WEST  
Herald Staff Writer

When Carmel's Dave and Wendy Banks met in the 1960s, they talked about joining the Peace Corps. What they didn't realize was it would take them more than four decades to make it happen.

After marrying, raising kids and retiring, they said to each other, "You know what we talked about long

ago? Maybe we should try it."

The retired couple returned to Carmel in 2010 after spending more than two years in Tanzania, educating villagers about HIV prevention, biology and English.

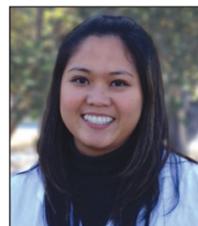
Surprisingly, they integrated well into the Tanzanian culture.

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See [www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Banks-Duo](http://www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Banks-Duo) to read about Dave and Wendy Banks' Peace Corps experience

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# Banks

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"If you have gray hair, you're in," said Dave Banks, 70, a retired pharmacist.

Their Tanzanian village of about 1,000 people not only respected their elders, but also respected the customs of one another. The village, Maringo, had two major tribes, and Catholic, Muslim and Lutheran faiths lived and celebrated traditions together, which impressed the Bankses.

"I think a lot of places in the world could take an example from Tanzania," said Wendy Banks, 69, a retired teacher.

Tanzanians subsist on less than a dollar a day, and at least 10 percent of the population lives with HIV. The stigma of the disease, especially with women, inspired the Bankses to start a life skills club to teach how to prevent the spread of HIV and brainstorm ways for

HIV-inflicted villagers to support their families.

High school students from the club performed skits and raps for the younger school kids, and persuaded even Muslim girls to do condom demonstrations.

Primary education, required in Tanzania, is free, but tuition for high school costs about \$100 a year. Educating boys takes priority over girls, but the headmaster in Maringo worked hard to keep the ratio at 50 percent.

To stay in school, girls commonly find older men to finance their education in exchange for sexual favors. "Babu" Dave and "Bibi" Wendy worked to teach the women to say, "No, not without a condom."

"You just don't know if you get through," Wendy said.

The headmaster also requested their help teaching in a high school with 500 students and only two teachers. Dave taught biology and Wendy taught English to 80 freshmen each.

## If you go

► **What:** Dave and Wendy Banks talk about their experience with the Peace Corps at a meeting hosted by the Carmel Residents Association.

► **When:** 4:45 p.m. Thursday  
► **Where:** Vista Lobos meeting room, on Torres Street between Third and Fourth avenues

► **Information:** 626-1610

To start the school's first library, the couple called for donations from Monterey Peninsula residents, who mailed nearly 3,000 books. To cover shipping costs of nearly \$55 a box, the community raised \$5,000.

The couple's family also offered support. A granddaughter requested soccer balls — used or new — instead of gifts for her 10th birthday, and shipped them with pumps to Tanzania. One of the couple's daughters raised money to finance two girls' education for three

years.

The couple brought with them a laptop, printer, solar charger, shortwave radio and a power strip, which proved especially useful in a village that had just one room with electricity and many villagers with cellphones that needed charging.

Wendy Banks was struck by villagers' resourcefulness.

"They can do so much with so little," she said.

One memorable side trip seems to bear this out. To get to a larger city a few hours away, the couple rode in trucks called dala-dalas, which were crammed with livestock, people and bags and had "already lived their life and died," Dave Banks said. On one trip, the truck got a flat tire. The driver used a pile of rocks to jack up the truck, but jammed on the wrong size spare tire. Soon after starting up again, the truck ran out of gas. After the driver borrowed a bike to travel to the only village with gas, he returned and swished gasoline in his mouth, spit it

on the carburetor, and they were finally on their way.

"Traveling was just so awful," Wendy said.

"When we got off the bus, we were always real happy," Dave said. The average age of a Peace Corps volunteer is 28, and only 7 percent of volunteers are older than 50 or married. The organization is trying to change that. In November it teamed up with AARP to reach out to volunteers with a lifetime of skills and professional experience.

The oldest volunteer currently serving in the Peace Corps is 82, just five years younger than the oldest volunteer ever to serve.

But the Peace Corps' rigorous medical background may stymie the process for older Americans, who must provide thorough documentation to show a clean bill of health. Though both Wendy and Dave were in excellent physical health, the Peace Corps still requested medical records dating back to their 20s. Applicants with diseases like diabetes can serve, but

may be placed closer to medical facilities instead of in remote villages.

For Dave and Wendy, 18 months passed from the time they submitted the application until they left for Tanzania. Though they returned a year and a half ago, the couple still uphold one of the three Peace Corps goals — promoting a better understanding of Tanzanians to Americans. They've given numerous talks around the San Francisco Bay Area and don't seem to tire of telling their stories.

In an African culture that respects their elders, but also depends on an extended family for support, the Tanzanians thought it odd for two people to leave their home and family of four children and 10 grandchildren.

Wendy's response: "We'll go back to our family . . . and maybe our family will be better, because we had this experience to share."

*Amy E. West can be reached at 646-4342 or [awest@montereyherald.com](mailto:awest@montereyherald.com).*