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MARY ANN CHASTAIN - ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO
S.C. Gov. Mark Sanford says he's trying to fall back in love with his wife, Jenny.

Sanford admits to more liaisons

Resignation calls, outrage and questions grow as governor contradicts his earlier statements.

By JIM MORRILL
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Calls for S.C. Gov. Mark Sanford's resignation escalated Tuesday after he revealed more liaisons with his Argentine mistress and acknowledged that he had "crossed lines" with other women.

The revelations came during an emotional interview with The Associated Press that further shook the political landscape. While describing his Argentine affair as "a love story," Sanford contradicted statements he made in first acknowledging it last week.

"This was a whole lot more than a simple affair, this was a love story," Sanford, at times crying, told the AP in an interview. "A forbidden one, a tragic one, but a love story at the end of the day."

He called Chapur his soul mate, but said he's trying to fall back in love with his wife, Jenny.

The comments outraged fellow Republicans and former supporters.

"My guess is that it's an emotional breakdown," said Katon Dawson, immediate past chairman of the state Republican Party. "It takes a bad situation and moves it to worse ... He's so emotional now he wants to tell everybody everything."

On Tuesday night, six of 27 members of the conservative Senate Republican Caucus issued a letter calling on Sanford to resign.

"Gov. Sanford has imposed a crisis upon our state," it said. "... He has lost the trust of the people and the legislature to lead our state."

The letter was crafted by Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee and marked a major break in the silence of the General
SEE SANFORD, 4A

Franken's win gives Democrats 60th vote

After long recount, former comedian will be newest senator, but his party's ability to block filibusters may prove illusory.

By DAVID LIGHTMAN
McClatchy Newspapers
WASHINGTON — Al Franken's victory in the long-contested U.S. Senate race in Minnesota means that Democrats will control 60 Senate seats for the first time in 30 years, but they'll still

face obstacles to passing major legislation.

On paper, the party now has the muscle to block any Republican filibuster, since it takes 60 votes under Senate rules to end debate and move to a final vote. However, two key Democratic senators are battling seri-

ous illnesses, two others are independents who caucus with the party but aren't sure votes with the majority, and all senators have diverse constituencies that sometimes lead them to break ranks with their parties.

As a result, it's unlikely that the 58-year-old Harvard-educated comedian and now senator-elect will make a dramatic difference this year as his
SEE FRANKEN, 12A



ANDY KING - ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO
Nearly eight months after Election Day, Al Franken emerged Tuesday as Minnesota's next U.S. senator.

IRAQIS CELEBRATE U.S. PULLOUT



JOSEPH SYWENKIJ - NEW YORK TIMES PHOTO

A man in Baghdad waves the Iraqi flag and cheers the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country's cities on Tuesday.

In Iraq, a day of measured joy

Bombing that killed at least 33 dampens revelry as American troops withdraw from cities.

By ALISSA J. RUBIN
New York Times
BAGHDAD — Iraq celebrated the withdrawal of U.S. troops from its cities with parades, fireworks and a national holiday as the prime minister trumpeted the country's sovereignty from American occupation to a wary public.

Even with a deadly car bombing and other mayhem marring the day - the deadline for the U.S. troop pullback under a Jan. 1 agreement - Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki seized on the occasion to position himself as a proud leader of a country independent at last, looking ahead to the next milestone of parliamentary elections in January.

He made no mention of U.S. troops in a nationally televised speech, even though nearly 130,000 remain in the country;

most had already pulled back from Iraq's cities before Tuesday's deadline.

In celebration, colorful paper balls and Iraqi flags were hoisted on blast walls at checkpoints as patriotic songs blared from loudspeakers on sidewalks. Plastic flowers and streamers decorated police and army vehicles.

The excitement, however, has rung hollow for many Iraqis who fear that their country's security forces are not ready to stand alone
SEE IRAQ, 4A



"There are still people out there who do not want the government of Iraq to succeed."

GEN. RAY ODIERNO, TOP U.S. SOLDIER IN IRAQ

CHECK OUT A SLIDESHOW OF IRAQ CELEBRATING THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL
www.charlotteobserver.com/photos

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PANEL URGES LIMITS ON PAINKILLER

Government experts on Tuesday called for sweeping safety restrictions on acetaminophen, the most widely used painkiller, including reducing the maximum dose of Tylenol. The concern: Overdoses can cause liver failure. The Food and Drug Administration gave no indication when it would act on the recommendations. 5A



Sharing ideas to help needy

A standing-room-only crowd turns out to share ideas about the funding crisis facing Charlotte charities. 1B



Know where money's going
The Observer's Peter St. Onge on how to research charities before you write your check. Plus: Upcoming charity events. 2A

Jones: I'll take blame for DSS accounting failures

County manager responds to commissioners' criticism of his leadership after thousands of dollars disappear from agency.

By FRED CLASEN-KELLY
frkelly@charlotteobserver.com
Mecklenburg County Manager Harry Jones took responsibility Tuesday for the accounting failures that led to the disappearance of untold thousands of dollars from the Department of Social Services.

Jones' comments came in response to criticism from county commissioners who said he should share blame for an embarrassment that has damaged public confidence in one of the county's largest agencies.

Officials have broadened an investigation of a DSS Christmas charity across the entire department. They cannot say how much money has vanished over the years. Financial

audits found that the county could not account for \$162,000 meant to buy gifts for poor children last year.

Tuesday, commissioners said the agency's accounting problems may stretch back as far as five years. Republican members also questioned Jones' oversight. "You do have to ask what went wrong in leadership to allow this," Commissioner Neil Cooksey said. "Certainly, this will come up in the manager's evaluation."

Jones, county manager since 2000, told the Observer his role demands that he "expect and accept responsibility."

DSS spends more than \$176 million annually and employs about 1,200. The agency runs a wide range of services for orphans, food stamp recipients, the disabled and others.

SEE JONES, 4A