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Johanns poised to leave Cabinet

■ The ag secretary is criticized for quitting to join the Senate race before a farm bill becomes law.

By JAKE THOMPSON
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

WASHINGTON — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns is resigning to run for the U.S. Senate in Nebraska. The White House sched-

uled an announcement for this morning by President Bush, who will be joined by Johanns, a senior administration official said Wednesday evening.

David Kramer, former Republican Party chairman for Nebraska,

said that Johanns' resignation is "imminent" and that the former governor will make a formal announcement about his Senate bid in a week to 10 days.

After reports surfaced about Johanns' plans, some critics quickly went on the attack.

Johanns would be leaving the U.S. Department of Agriculture before Congress approves a new farm bill,

which happens every five years, said state Democratic Party spokesman Eric Fought.

"It's interesting," Fought said, "this was supposed to be his dream job, and he's looking to leave it before he's done."

Resignation would free Johanns from the Hatch Act's prohibition on federal employees being candidates
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Johanns

Fewer marriages lasting 25 years

■ A majority of couples who married in the late 1970s failed to reach their silver anniversaries.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Don't stock up on silver anniversary cards. More than half the Americans who might have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversaries since 2000 were divorced, separated or widowed before reaching that milestone, according to the latest census findings, released Wednesday.

For the first time since at least World War II, women and men who married in the late 1970s had a less-than-even chance of still being married 25 years later.

"We know that somewhere between 40 percent and 50 percent of marriages dissolve," said Barbara Risman, executive officer of the Council on Contemporary Families, a research group. "Now, when people marry, everyone wonders, is this one of those marriages that will be around for a while?"

David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values, a marriage research and advocacy group, said he was struck by the fact that the percentage of people who celebrated their 15th anniversary had declined. "This seems to be saying more recent marriages are more fragile," Blankenhorn said.

About 80 percent of first marriages that took place in the late 1950s lasted at least 15 years. Among people who married for the first time in the late 1980s, however, 61 percent of the men and 57 percent of the women were still married 15 years later.

Among married women surveyed, non-Hispanic whites were the only group in which a majority had marked their 15th anniversaries.

The survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, conducted in 2004, confirmed that most Americans eventually married, but they were marrying later and were slightly more likely to marry more than once.

The latest numbers also suggested an uptick in the divorce rate among people married in the most recent 20 years covered in the report: 1975 to 1994. The proportion of all Americans who had been divorced, about 1 in 5, remained constant, however.

"Basically, it looks like we're pretty much holding steady," said Rose Kreider, a Census Bureau demographer. "There are
See Census: Page 2

A question of security

Differences

Campus security changes at area colleges since Virginia Tech:

■ **University of Iowa, Iowa State University and University of Northern Iowa:** Conducting a full review of campus crime and crime prevention. The Iowa Board of Regents is expected to approve a new policy at the board's October meeting allowing campus police officers to carry guns.

■ **University of Nebraska-Lincoln:** Unveiled "UNL Alert" in May. The emergency notification system flashes onto campus computer screens and tells students, faculty and parents who download the service of a tornado warning, bomb threat or other emergency situation.

■ **University of Nebraska at Omaha:** Conducted a series of drills with the Omaha Police Department. In one drill, modeled after the Virginia Tech massacre, a SWAT team entered a campus building and disarmed a shooter.

■ **Creighton University:** Studying whether it can alert students to an emergency by using text messaging.

Sources: Universities, Iowa Board of Regents, Stateline.org.



JAMES R. BURNETT/THE WORLD-HERALD

Pistol on his hip, Officer John O'Grady patrols the University of Nebraska-Lincoln City Campus near the Nebraska Union on Wednesday.

Would officers carrying guns make Midlands campuses safer?

By MATTHEW HANSEN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Today, campus police officers patrolling the University of Iowa campus must get special permission from the school's president before they can retrieve a gun and pursue a violent criminal.

That policy would change at Iowa's three public universities as soon as October if the school presidents, a majority of the students and the campus cops get their way.

Two words — Virginia Tech — are on the minds of university leaders who think police on the Iowa, Iowa State and Northern Iowa campuses should be allowed to carry firearms, as offi-

cers at most major universities do.

Seung Hui Cho's killing of 32 people on the Virginia Tech campus has pushed the gun question to the forefront in Iowa as part of a larger, national effort to make college campuses safer places.

"I think most people understand that (guns) aren't going to prevent a tragedy," said Gary Steinke, executive director of the Iowa Board of Regents. "But can armed officers respond better? Can they respond quicker? That's the debate here."

Security officers at most large public universities, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, are trained police officers who carry guns as part of their

standard-issue uniform.

Other public universities, including the University of Nebraska at Omaha, hire security guards not certified to carry firearms. These security guards instead carry batons and a chemical spray that could be used to break up a fight, for example, and contact city police if a situation becomes violent.

Officers at the three Iowa campuses are stuck somewhere in between. They are trained and certified to carry guns but can't do so on a daily basis because of the current Iowa Board of Regents policy.

University of Nebraska at
See Campuses: Page 2

Weapons

What do campus police carry?

■ **University of Nebraska-Lincoln:** Guns, no Tasers.

■ **Creighton University:** Guns, no Tasers.

■ **University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska at Kearney:** Batons, handcuffs and Mace. UNO security officers are not certified to carry guns. UNK's security officers are certified to carry guns but are barred from doing so by the school's administration. None use Tasers.

■ **Iowa, Iowa State, Northern Iowa:** Guns only on permission from the school president. Officers carry Tasers, batons, chemical spray and handcuffs.

Sources: Universities, Iowa Board of Regents, Stateline.org.

Brain testing aids soldiers

■ The pre-deployment screening may speed diagnosis and treatment of war injuries.

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — Before leaving for Iraq, soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division take a basic math test on laptop computers, matching numbers and symbols, identifying patterns and having their response times measured.

It's part of a fledgling Army program that records how soldiers' brains work when healthy, giving doctors baseline data to

help diagnose and treat the soldiers if they come back with traumatic brain injury — the signature injury of the Iraq war.

"We don't want to wait until the soldier is getting out of the Army to say, 'But I've had these symptoms,'" said Lt. Col. Mark McGrail, a division surgeon with the 101st.

The mandatory brain-function tests are starting with the 101st

at Fort Campbell and are expected to spread soon to other military bases.

The tests provide a standard, objective measurement for each soldier's reaction time, his short-term memory and other cognitive skills. That data would be used when the soldier comes home to identify mild brain trauma that can often go unnoticed and untreated.

One veterans group wants to ensure the Army doesn't use the results to deny treatment by say-
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Troop brain injuries

The Army has begun brain-function tests on soldiers before war to give doctors critical data for treatment if a soldier returns with a traumatic brain injury.

Symptoms of soldier brain injuries ...

	... right after injury	... after returning home
Headache	56%	88
Dizziness	14	64
Memory problems	20	46
Balance problems	18	28
Irritability	28	50

SOURCE: Walter Reed Army Medical Center

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADJUSTING DEPLOYMENTS

Senate rejects bid to give troops more time off

By JOSEPH MORTON
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Sens. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and James Webb, D-Va., failed again Wednesday in their effort to guarantee U.S. troops as much time back home with their families as they spend fighting in the war zone.

Army units now generally deploy for 15 months at a time, with 12 months at home.

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U.S. security contractors in Iraq have virtual immunity from the law.

Hagel and Webb offered an amendment to the defense authorization bill that would have required troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to be brought home for the same length of time as their deployments.
See Hagel: Page 2

Omaha weather



Partly sunny and breezy. High 86; low 69.

Rock composer Alan Parsons discusses his music, his Friday concert and his tune that NU adopted for its tunnel walk.
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O.J. Simpson is released from jail after posting bail in connection with an alleged armed robbery in Las Vegas.
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With a little imagination, a bland dorm room can be turned into a stylish retreat.
Living



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