

ture official, will stay on in his current role, providing the White House with an experienced ally as Congress attempts to make another run at crafting a long-term farm bill this year.

Vilsack, the country's 30th agriculture secretary, has frequently mentioned how much he enjoys the job but until Monday had been reluctant to speculate on his future. During his

duction on more recent America that relevant in creasingly needs to counter the

"It's been years," Vilsack said Monday at the American Farm Bureau's annual meeting. In approval, which is required for

farm Bureau's leader says Tom Vilsack "has been advocating right things" for farmers. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

ful I'll have more use there's more to

will not need Senate approval, which is required for

new Cabinet nominees, to continue as agriculture secretary in President Barack Obama's second term.

The 62-year-old cheerleader

various farm groups across the country.

But Vilsack's tenure hasn't been without its challenges. Early on, Vilsack drew concern that he was focusing too much on organic production and specialty crops at the expense of commercial production. His biggest flub in office, though,

See VILSACK, Page 8B

Biz Buzz



LYNN HICKS
lhicks@dmreg.com

Super-eater hopes to repeat wins at Jethro's

Beware: This Biz Buzz is guaranteed to break whatever resolution you made about eating and drinking less this year.

Insatiable Molly: A super-eater from Bellevue, Neb., has already conquered Jethro's Adam Emmenecker Challenge twice, and she's returning this week for two more.

Molly Schuyler has eaten the 5-pound sandwich — which includes pork tenderloin, Angus steak burger, brisket, bacon, fried cheese and buffalo chicken tenders, cheese sauce, plus fries — at Jethro's locations in Des Moines and Ankeny. She ate one of those in 7 minutes and 39 seconds, missing the record by nine seconds.

Schuyler is the sole woman to complete the challenge, which must be done in 15 minutes. Only nine people have done it once, and one man has done it twice. "Man Vs. Food" host **Adam Richman** couldn't do it.

Schuyler is 5-foot-7, 120 pounds. (She says she's put on 5 pounds doing these food challenges.) The 33-year-old mother of four says she grew up wolfing down food, and she typically drinks about a gallon of water, diet soda or other liquids a day.

"I usually don't eat a lot, but when I do, I make it count," she said by phone from Bellevue, where her husband

See BUZZ, Page 8B



Molly Schuyler of Bellevue, Neb., has completed Jethro's Adam Emmenecker Challenge twice and is returning for two more tries this week. SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER



Jim Wallace, CEO of GuideOne Insurance, is the incoming president of the Greater Des Moines Partnership board. DAVID PURDY/THE REGISTER

VISION MOVES FORWARD FOR PARTNERSHIP

Outgoing chairman praises Capital Crossroads work.

By **Donnelle Eller**
deller@dmreg.com

After creating dozens of Capital Crossroads strategies, now comes the hard work of implementing them, says Larry Zimpleman, the outgoing chairman of the Greater Des Moines Partnership board.

Capital Crossroads didn't "grab the headlines" last year like it did in 2011, when the long-term visioning plan set its five-year goals, Zimpleman said. But in 2012, 500 volunteers dug in to implement the goals of 11 broad initiatives. "Implementation is where the hard work is and where the real positive accomplishments

come," he said.

"If you look at Capital Crossroads, and look at the time and energy that people are spending on it, it's very humbling. It's a very caring community, and people are working hard to make it better," said Zimpleman, who hands the partnership's leadership to Jim Wallace, chief executive of GuideOne Insurance, tonight at the group's annual dinner in downtown Des Moines.

Expect the work to continue this year with priorities like education reform and workforce readiness, continued downtown redevelopment, and developing a bioscience corridor between Ames and Des Moines, Zimpleman and Wallace

See PARTNER, Page 8B

ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

21

Local business expansions

11

New company locations

1,600

New and retained jobs, including 600 in downtown Des Moines

\$263B

New investment in plants, equipment and offices, including \$96 million in downtown Des Moines

100

Investors in Plains Angels, a group of Midwest angel investors the Partnership initiated

1 & 67

1 million people who attended 67 days of events in downtown Des Moines

MORE ONLINE

Read a list of new companies or local companies that expanded in 2012 at **DesMoinesRegister.com**.

BUY INTO THE CIRCLE

Look for a revitalized "Buy Into the Circle" this year, said Jim Wallace, the partnership board's new chairman. The regional initiative to get businesses to buy products and services from other local businesses has "been successful. It just needs a shot in the arm," said Wallace, who hopes to see boosted marketing and improved measures on its success.

Food Prize's Quinn receives Farm Bureau service award

By **Christopher Doering**
Gannett Washington Bureau

Kenneth Quinn, president of the prestigious World Food Prize Foundation, is accustomed to giving out an award each year to honor a person whose work has improved

the quality, quantity and availability of food around the world.

Now, he has been given his own award to honor his work in agriculture.

The American Farm Bureau Federation presented its highest honor, the Distinguished

Service Award, to Quinn on Monday at its annual convention in Nashville.

The country's largest farm group established the award to honor individuals who have devoted their careers to serving farming and

ranching. Craig Hill, president of the Iowa Farm Bureau, nominated Quinn for the honor.

"I'm stunned and blown away to get this award," Quinn said in an interview. "With the kind of background I have, I was a diplomat and

not somebody who would normally be associated with working on agriculture."

Quinn, a former U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, began overseeing the World Food Prize Foundation in 2000 after he retired from the State Department.



Kenneth Quinn