

STEVE WILSON  
**DISCOVERING  
HIS CALL**

The mental skills required from a former Hawkeye wrestler translate well into the work world. Especially if the job is working in the emergency room.

*The Courier's annual Progress edition will be featured in Saturday's edition. This is a Progress Extra story of just one of the many southern Iowans making a difference.*

**LOCAL, PAGE A2**

**OHS PRESENTS  
'THE VAMPYRE'**

The OHS drama department's production is March 31.

**ENTERTAINMENT,  
PAGE C1**

**TWO-DAY  
FORECAST**



Today ... snow showers early with a chance of lingering snow showers later. High of 37. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent. Snow accumulations less

# Gardening grows the spirit



Mark Newman/The Courier

ABOVE: Chef Terrie Kohl, owner of the Country Club Market in Clive, demonstrates that treating fresh herbs just like flowers can extend their useful shelf life. Kohl gave the Ottumwa Laureate Guild a presentation Thursday in the Culinary Arts studio at Indian Hills Community College.



RIGHT: Larry Skellanger of Quilted Gardens and Nursery, Des Moines.

# City: Wrong numbers given on Centerplate

**BY MATT MILNER**  
COURIER STAFF WRITER

OTTUMWA — City officials say the amount Ottumwa owes Centerplate is less than originally thought.

The Courier reported Thursday that the city owed Centerplate \$450,000. That figure was provided to the Courier by the city, and City Administrator Joe Helfenberger did not question those figures when interviewed Wednesday.

On Thursday, the city's story changed. Helfenberger said the city reviewed its books and came up with a figure of \$181,193 owed to Centerplate.

Helfenberger provided the Courier with a copy of a memo prepared for the city council and mayor, showing no money has been paid to Bridge View Center from the center's endowment fund for two years. Kristi McDowell, the city's accountant, wrote in a memo to Helfenberger the payments stopped when the endowment's value fell below \$2 million due to the