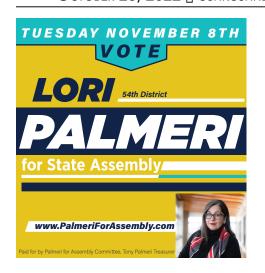
Bringing Oshkosh news home

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Assembly candidates eye Madison

Palmeri, Herman vie for 54th District seat

Oshkosh Herald

Oshkosh's 54th Assembly District will have new representation in Madison as the city's mayor and a local businessman challenge for the seat being vacated by longtime Democratic legislator Gordon Hintz.

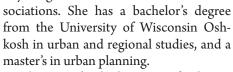
Two-term Mayor Lori Palmeri was unopposed in her Democratic primary and faces Donnie Herman, a business owner and lifetime Oshkosh resident who also ran unchallenged in his Republican primary. The Nov. 8 election will determine the new makeup of the state Legislature and U.S. Congress.

This is Herman's second campaign for

the Assembly seat as he unsuccessfully challenged Hintz in 2020.

Palmeri served two terms on the city's

Common Council before her election as mayor. She is a commissioner for the East Central Regional Planning Commission, chair of the Oshkosh Redevelopment Authority and has been active in promoting city neighborhood as-



Herman

Palmeri said a high priority for her in

Madison would be to deal with the growing property tax burden on municipalities and their residents that has restricted



Palmeri

services and raised fees due to a longtime imbalance on shared revenues. She said legislators need to listen to each other and be able to conduct civil conversations.

Herman is a North High graduate who worked in printing

with Leach Co., where he was a union representative before transitioning to management. While a longtime member of the

See **District 54 seat** on Page 10

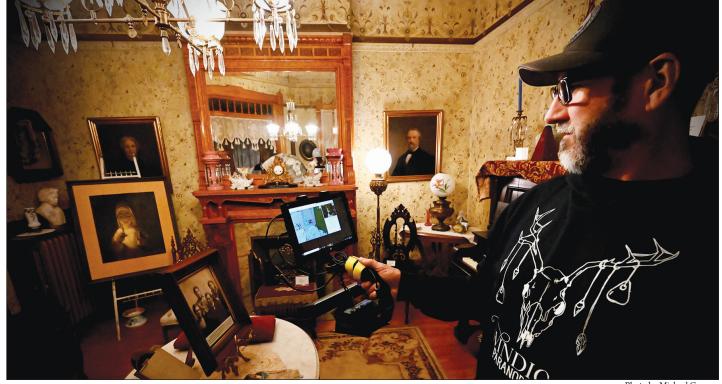


Photo by Michael Cooney

Checking for visitors

Greg Kelly of Windigo Paranormal operates a camera with a Kinect light sensor to detect any activity at the Morgan House on Friday night as part of three Investigations offered at the historic home of the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society. The investigators said they use both an SLS camera and highly sensitive microphones to "see" and "hear" any spirits.

North grad Kujawa working toward NFL dream

By Tim Froberg

Alex Kujawa once put together an intriguing career plan as a junior high student at Perry Tipler Middle School. It detailed his dream of working in the National Football League.

That's a tough gig to pull off, but Kujawa is chasing that lofty goal in a high-profile world loaded with big names, big money and enormous pressure to win on Sundays.

The former Oshkosh North football and track standout is serving a seasonal internship in the equipment department for the Cleveland Browns. His duties started in September and came fresh off a three-month training camp equipment internship with the Arizona Cardinals.

Kujawa is using the internships to soak up as much knowledge as possible and secure a full-time job in the NFL.

"It's been kind of surreal," Kujawa said.
"You grow up watching these guys and

thinking, 'Man, I wonder what it's like to be in that building?' Being able to work with these guys every day in an NFL environment is a privilege. Every day you get to walk

Kujawa

privilege."

Kujawa's work with
the Cardinals and
Browns has been more
hands-on than one
might expect from an
equipment department
employee. In addition
to tending to equipment
needs, Kujawa sets up

through those doors is a

on-field drills and participates in many of them with the players.

In the NFL, equipment personnel like Kujawa are assigned a specific position. At Arizona, Kujawa worked with the quarterbacks and caught passes in practice drills from Kyler Murray, Colt McCoy and Trace McSorley He currently works with Cleve-

land's defensive line and has engaged in passrush drills with the likes of elite defensive ends Myles Garrett and Jadeveon Clowney.

"One thing that people maybe don't know about the equipment department is that we do a lot of on-field stuff," Kujawa said. "You're setting up their drills, catching passes from them, rushing the quarterback and working closely with the coaching staff with the daily practice script to make sure they have everything they want. You're doing a lot of hands-on things and making sure the players are taken care of in terms of both preparation and equipment needs so they're good to go for the games."

One thing that has surprised him in both NFL environments is how grounded and down to earth the players are.

"They're great people," Kujawa said. "People often forget that at the end of the day, they're human beings like the rest of us. I

SEE **NFL dream** ON PAGE 15



Submitted photo

Oshkosh North alum Alex Kujawa works with a member of the Cleveland Browns during a practice earlier this season. Kujawa is a member of the team's equipment staff.