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# Marshfield News Herald

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## UW-STEVEN'S POINT

# Meet the finalists vying for chancellor at public forums

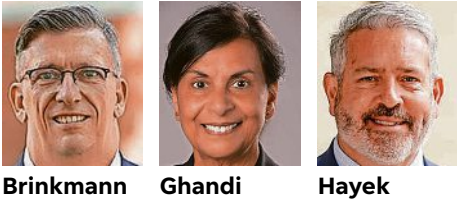


Old Main on campus at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STEVEN'S POINT

**Erik Pfantz**  
Stevens Point Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

STEVEN'S POINT – The public is invited to share opinions on three candidates selected as finalists to be the next and 16th chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman announced Feb. 12 three finalists for the position of chancellor at the UW-Stevens Point. The finalists are Robert Brinkmann, dean of the College



of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois; Pratima Ghandi, interim chancellor of UW-Stevens Point since April 2025; and John Hayek, vice chancellor for Aca-

demic and Health Affairs and Chief Academic Officer at Texas State University in Austin, Texas.

The public forums will be held from 4-5 p.m. Feb. 16, 17 and 19, according to a news release. The forums serve as one of the final steps in a hiring process that began with former chancellor Thomas Gibson's selection to be chancellor of UW-Milwaukee, announced in March 2025.

Forums will feature a single

**See CHANCELLOR, Page 2A**

## MARSHFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

# Candidate charged with child sexual assault

**Erik Pfantz**  
Marshfield News-Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MARSHFIELD – Additional charges were filed Feb. 12 against a Marshfield School Board candidate previously charged with multiple felony charges of child abuse and domestic abuse.

Mathew Samson, 41, of Marshfield, was charged Feb. 12 with two counts of first-degree sexual assault of a child under the age of 12. If convicted of both charges, Samson could face up to an additional 120 years in prison and a minimum of 50 years, according to court documents.



Wood County Circuit Judge Gregory Jerabek set a \$500,000 bail for Samson, in the new case on Feb. 11. Samson remains in the Wood County Jail.

Samson was previously charged on Jan. 29 with seven felony counts including four felony charges of child abuse and one count each of first-degree recklessly endangering safety, false imprisonment, strangulation and suffocation, and a misdemeanor count of battery, all as a domestic abuse incident, related to two separate cases. If convicted of these charges, Samson would face a maximum sentence of 49 years and three months in prison.

A preliminary hearing on the original charges was held Feb. 12 and Wood County Circuit Judge Nicholas Brazeau Jr. found enough evidence to continue with the charges against Samson. Brazeau also continued the \$50,000 bail previously set for Samson in each of the original cases.

Samson is scheduled for an arraignment on the original charges and an initial appearance on the new charges on March 2.

**See SAMSON, Page 2A**

# Chipotle seeks approval for new Marshfield restaurant

**Erik Pfantz**  
Marshfield News-Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MARSHFIELD – A representative for Chipotle Mexican Grill is seeking approval to build a restaurant in Marshfield.

The city's Plan Commission on Feb. 17 will consider a request from Joseph Radach, on behalf of Milwaukee-based Midland Management LLC, for a conditional use permit to build a 2,371-square-foot restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating and a pickup lane on the city's north side.

The proposed restaurant would be just north of the site of the former BMO

bank at 1305 N. Central Ave. in the Marshfield Towne Centre development. According to the proposal, the BMO bank parcel would be split into two lots – one for the BMO bank building and one for the proposed Chipotle restaurant, according to city documents. Portions of the existing parking lot would also be removed for the Chipotle restaurant.

"We are excited to partner with the City of Marshfield to bring a new fast casual restaurant option to the community," Radach said in a Dec. 19 letter to the City Council and Plan Commission. "Your guidance and feedback are welcomed."

Radach's permit request outlines a

plan for the Chipotle restaurant to be built on 0.67 acres of the bank property's 1.89 acre parcel. The restaurant would have an outdoor eating and drinking area with six tables that can seat approximately 20 patrons, according to the request. Two of the tables will offer accessibility consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Additionally, the plan outlines the restaurant chain's "Chipotlane" drive-through concept, which the restaurant says is unlikely to cause regular, significant traffic issues, according to the request. Customers will submit their orders and payments online via the restaurant's website or mobile app prior to arriving at the drive-through, which reduces the time needed to wait in line, according to the request.

The Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 207 W. Sixth St. in Marshfield.

If approved, construction for the restaurant is expected to begin in spring 2026 with completion expected in December 2026, according to city documents.

*Erik Pfantz covers local government and education in central Wisconsin for USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin and values his background as a rural Wisconsinite. Contact him at epfantz@usatodayco.com.*

