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Lawsuit: Teacher gave Plan B to student

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A parent is suing Portage Township Schools and others after a teacher allegedly gave the parent's child Plan B emergency contraceptive in November 2025.

Keli Zohfeld filed the lawsuit in Hammond federal court Thursday, naming Portage Township Schools, Portage High School and Jill Ramian, the teacher who allegedly provided the Plan B, also known as the "morning-after pill," as defendants.

The lawsuit alleges Ramian obtained and distributed the Plan B to Zohfeld's daughter, who was a juvenile and student at Portage High School, without Zohfeld's knowledge or consent.

"Defendant Ramian took it upon herself to act as a clandestine medical intermediary, providing a pharmacological agent with known hormonal side effects and medical risks to a minor student outside of any legitimate medical or nursing framework," the lawsuit states.

When asked about the lawsuit, Melissa Deavers, the Portage Township Schools director of communications, said the district is unable to comment on personnel matters.

District attorney Ken Elwood said early Friday Ramian no longer works for Portage Township Schools.

Other defendants and their attorneys were not immediately available for comment.

The lawsuit alleges administrators at the school were aware of Ramian's conduct and took no action.

Portage Township Schools and Portage High School "failed to properly supervise and monitor Defendant Ramian, a staff member who demonstrated a propensity for crossing professional and medical

Please see **LAWSUIT**, Page A4



Congressman Frank Mrvan looks on with others as Kelly Powers Baria and Steve Mays cut the ribbon for the new Wingtip Aviation hangar at the Gary/Chicago International Airport.

GARY TAKING FLIGHT

Airport debuts new \$12 million hangar

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A \$12 million hangar that could transform Gary/Chicago International Airport opened Friday morning.

The 47,000 square foot hangar will house charter and private jets for Valparaiso-based Wingtip Aviation. It is expected to transform the airport into a regional hub for businesses and affluent travelers as well as provide new jobs to locals.

The hangar, which has been under construction since 2024, debuted at a ribbon cutting ceremony where representatives from Wingtip, the airport and the local and federal government christened the development with the launch of one of Wingtips new jets.

Wingtip sees this move as a pathway to expansion. The new hangar allows them to add new personnel in their offices and on the runway, according to Director of Client Services Robert Herb.

"It takes a big team to operate," Herb said. "Creating jobs in that way once we grow our fleet is going to be key"

Please see **AIRPORT**, Page A4

\$4 per gallon gasoline could soon return to NWI

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The price of gasoline in Indiana will increase by at least 59 cents per gallon in less than three weeks unless Gov. Mike Braun convenes a special session of the General Assembly to continue the suspension of the state's gas taxes.

State law sets a 120-day limit on the governor's ability to unilaterally address a statewide energy emergency unless the Legislature explicitly authorizes the governor to continue the emergency for an additional period.

In this case, Braun initially declared a statewide energy emergency April 8 to try to reduce prices at the pump by suspending the collection of Indiana's 7% sales tax on gasoline purchases amid the ongoing economic uncertainty unleashed by the war on Iran launched Feb. 28 by the United States and Israel.

The Republican governor subsequently renewed his emergency declaration through Aug. 6 in tandem with the suspension of Indiana's 37 cents per gallon excise tax on gasoline — dropping the price of gas in Indiana significantly compared to neighboring states.

Motorists who suspect a gas station has failed to reduce its prices to account for the suspended gas taxes, or is otherwise engaged in gas price gouging, should file a complaint with the Indiana attorney general online at in.gov/attorneygeneral, or by calling 800-382-5516.

Braun has yet to say whether he will seek to extend the gasoline price break for Hoosier motorists by reconvening the Republican-controlled General Assembly — which ended its regular session Feb. 27 — and asking state lawmakers to either authorize the energy emergency to continue or to outright suspend or reduce Indiana's gasoline taxes until some future date.

If Braun does not call a special legislative session, data released Friday by the Indiana Department of Revenue show that resuming the collection of Indiana's gasoline taxes on Aug. 7 will add 58.9 cents to the price of every gallon of gasoline sold in Indiana.

Please see **GAS**, Page A4

State trooper released from hospital as he recovers from shooting

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Indiana State Police Sgt. Justin Heflin returned home Friday after a week in the hospital recovering from multiple gunshot wounds suffered in a July 10 shootout in LaPorte County.

He has spent the last week recovering after receiving surgery at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

"After a week of strength, determination, and support from friends, family, and the community, today marks a huge step forward," The ISP Lowell Branch wrote in a Facebook post. "Sgt. Heflin is grateful for the exceptional care he received and for everyone who has kept him in their thoughts."

On July 10, Heflin was tracking Kevin Meyers, who was driving a stolen pickup truck. Meyers rammed Heflin with the truck before the two exchanged gunfire, ISP spokesman Glen Fifield said.

After the shooting, Meyers fled to a wooded area near the Town of Westville about five miles south of where the shooting took place. A manhunt ensued with roughly 100 officers from agencies across the Region taking part.

Meyers fired additional shots toward officers, but no one was hit. Roughly two hours later, police found Meyers dead.

With Heflin home, ISP thanked everyone who has stood by him while he was in the hospital.

"While the road to full recovery continues, being home is a milestone he's been looking forward to and one he doesn't take for granted," they said on Facebook. "Your support means more than you know."