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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## TRIBUNE WATCHDOG

### A final flurry of tuition waivers

Some lawmakers dole out perks to insiders before scholarship ban goes into effect

BY STACY ST. CLAIR,  
JOHN CHASE  
AND RAY LONG

Tribune reporters

Even as the troubled legislative scholarship program was on its last legs, state lawmakers continued to make questionable choices and show possible political favoritism in awarding the free college tuition, a Tribune analysis found.

The newspaper's findings come just two months after Gov. Pat Quinn abolished the oft-abused program and after a federal grand jury sought records for scholarships bestowed by at least three state legislators. One of those lawmakers — Sen. Annazette Collins, D-Chicago — chose to give a coveted 2012 scholarship to a University of Illinois at Chicago student who moved to the city from Texas for school.

After the program drew to a close Sept. 1, the Illinois

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### Is now too soon for flu vaccine?

BY ERIN MEYER

Tribune reporter

It's time to get your flu shot. Or is it?

The answer to that question depends on whom you ask.

The sign in the pharmacy window might suggest flu season is already here, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is urging everyone at least 6 months old to get a dose of prevention "as soon as possible."

But according to some infectious disease experts, the beneficial effects of a flu shot received in August or September could start to fade just as the virus kicks into high gear.

While doctors can never predict exactly when it will strike, the official start of flu season has long been October, with the number of cases typically peaking in February or even later.

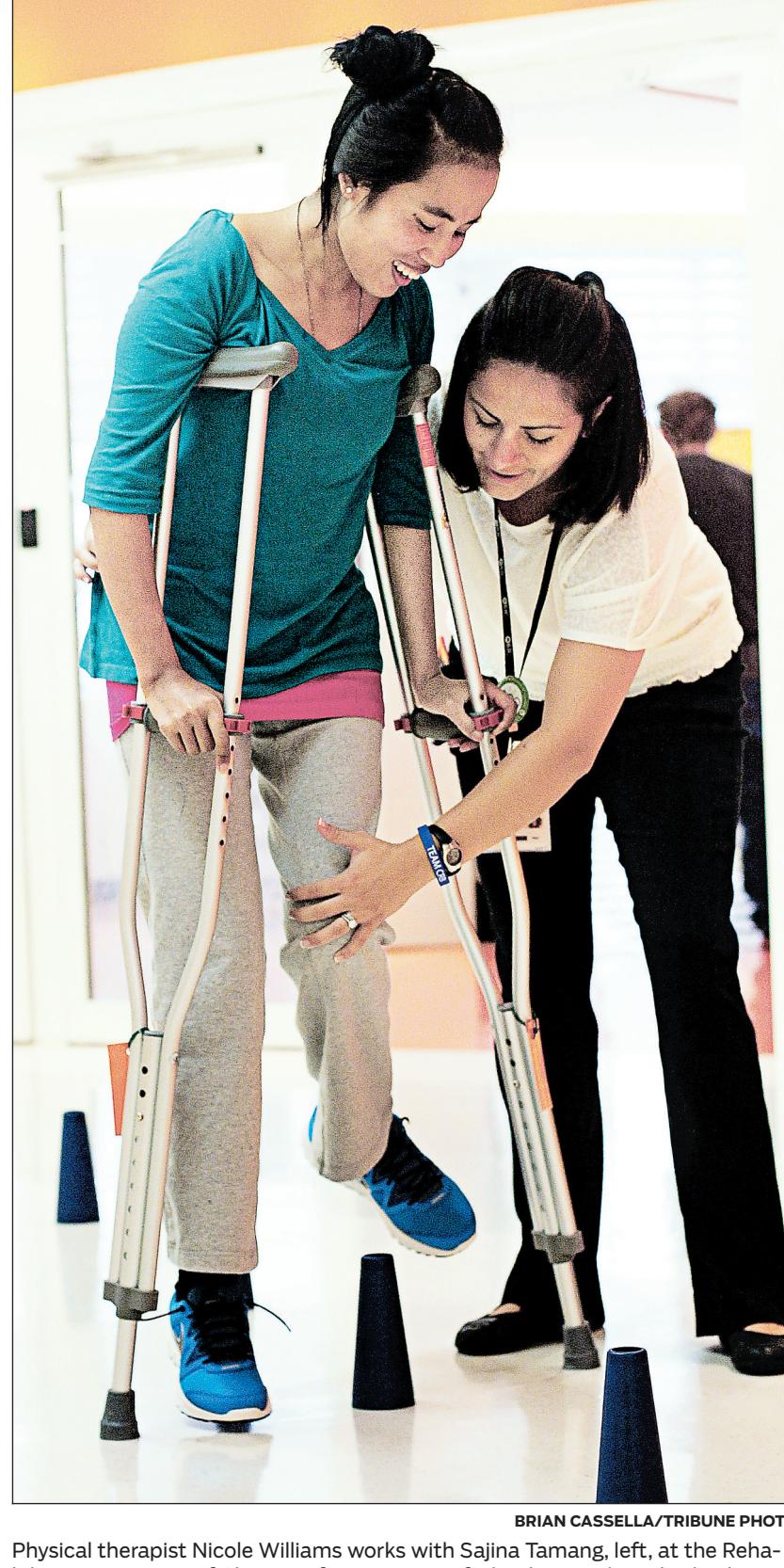
Medical professionals agree that a flu vaccine loses

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### Sox lose, but magic number down to 12

The Sox took an early 3-0 lead but failed to hold on, losing to the Royals 4-3. They still have a two-game lead over the Tigers, who lost 12-4 to the A's.

Chicago Sports



BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Physical therapist Nicole Williams works with Sajina Tamang, left, at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago after surgery to fix her hips and crushed pelvis.

### HEALING JOURNEY

Sajina Tamang, a young victim of the global boom in human trafficking, suffered abuse that left her nearly crippled — until a team of Chicago volunteers got her back on her feet

BY BONNIE MILLER RUBIN

Tribune reporter

At age 18 and with the blessing of her family, Sajina Tamang left her home in Nepal to work as a housekeeper in Lebanon. Finding work abroad was her ticket to self-sufficiency, one of the few career paths open to a rural girl in one of the world's most impoverished countries.

But instead of a haven, Tamang found horror. Her employer beat her, abusing her for two years, officials said. Eventually she was thrown from a fifth-floor balcony, suffering multiple injuries and left for dead. Aid workers found her and helped her return home, but pelvic and hip fractures left her in constant anguish, requiring that she be carried almost everywhere. Her chances of a job, marriage or productive life were virtually nil.

Then, her luck turned. The delicate features and sweet demeanor that made her a target of human traffickers also brought her to the attention of Operation Walk Chicago, a team of health care professionals who travel to developing countries performing free joint replacements — routine operations here, but medical miracles in destitute corners of the globe.

Tamang's injuries were too complex for the Chicago surgeons to attempt in Nepal. Still, they couldn't turn their backs.

"Maybe it was because she was a young woman and I have a daughter," said Dr. Victoria Brander, a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

"All I could think of was,

'We've got to do something.'

If not me, who?"

That is how the now 23-year-old found herself on a plane, traveling from Katmandu to Delhi to New York to Chicago. She underwent pelvic and hip reconstruction surgery at Northwestern in July, followed by intense therapy at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, learning how to reuse joints and muscles long stiffened by idleness and pain. She's scheduled to return home to Nepal next month.

Her odyssey offers a glimpse into the sordid world of human exploitation, but also into a deep reservoir of human kindness that rarely makes headlines. After that first meeting in November 2010, it took another 18 months and a collaboration of some 40 doctors, nurses, physical therapists, volunteers and donors to

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Once you  
see these  
things, you  
can't unsee  
them.  
The seed  
has been  
planted.

— Dr. Victoria  
Brander

## THE CHRISTOPHER VAUGHN TRIAL

### SWIFT VERDICT: GUILTY

After 45 minutes, jury convicts dad of murdering wife, 3 kids

BY STEVE SCHMADKE,  
JASON MEISNER  
AND RYAN HAGGERTY

Tribune reporters

from the courtroom as Kimberly's family members embraced.

Vaughn was charged with the 2007 murders of his wife and their children, Abigale, 12, Cassandra, 11, and Blake, 8, who were shot at close range while buckled into the Oswego family's red Ford Expedition.



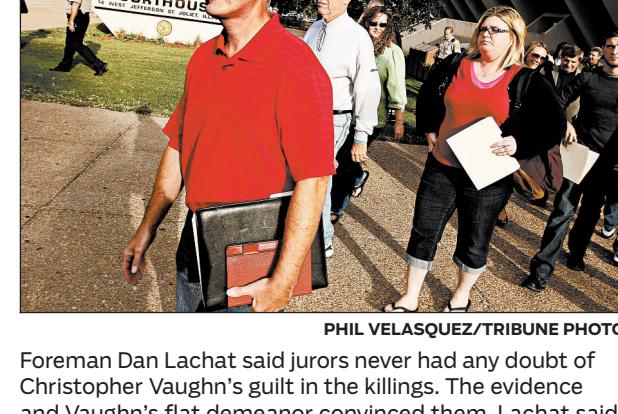
Prosecutors alleged Vaughn pulled the SUV onto a frontage road off Interstate 55 near Channahon on the way to what he told his

family was a trip to a Springfield water park. Vaughn then shot Kimberly once under the chin, pushed her body to the side and methodically gunned down his children, shooting each once in the head and once in the torso.

Vaughn, Kimberly, began crying softly when Judge Daniel Rozak read the four guilty verdicts. As he had throughout the five-week trial, Vaughn showed no emotion, only rubbing his mouth with his right hand while Rozak finished reading.

He said nothing before being shackled and led

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PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Foreman Dan Lachat said jurors never had any doubt of Christopher Vaughn's guilt in the killings. The evidence and Vaughn's flat demeanor convinced them, Lachat said.

## White House: Attack in Libya was 'terrorism'

Sept. 11 assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi may have involved al-Qaida-linked militants.

Nation & World, Page 16

## Coal plant wins delay in cleanup of air emissions

State grants a five-year reprieve to a downstate facility that contributes to Chicago-area pollution.

Chicagoland, Page 4

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