



A field of sunflowers on Troy and Mary-Ware Bradford's farm is in full bloom in Harrison County, Kentucky. I love how the bright yellow sunflowers contrast against the dark stormy skies. I have never seen anything quite like this. It downpoured minutes after making this photo.

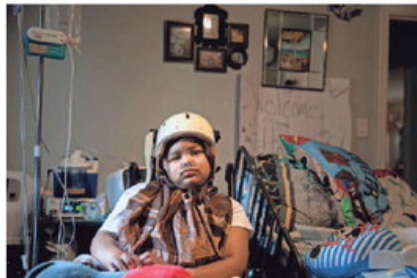


Kim Neace, a nurse practitioner, administers the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to Lisa Walker at the Long Branch Tavern in Laurel, Indiana. Reporter Dan Horn and I spent a

lot of time in Franklin County learning about vaccine hesitancy. Health care workers were getting creative on reaching people, including a 'shot for a shot' promotion in this town of 500. Walker was one of the first to sign up for her vaccine at the bar. She received a shot of tequila.



This photo was 80 years in the making. Garri White and Doreen Samuel started corresponding in 1939. They were 10 years old. At 92, White and Samuel continue to exchange letters every other month, sharing birthdays, holidays and stories about everyday life. The pen pals had never spoken on the phone or met in person until the two friends FaceTimed for the first time in November. This story was one of the highlights of my year.



Marcellus 'MJ' Whitehead, 8, sits in his wheelchair at his grandma's house in Evanston. In July, MJ was shot in the head and leg in East Westwood. He left Cincinnati Children's Hospital in November after months of treatment for a severe brain injury. Reporter Sherry Coolidge and I talked with his mom and

photos of the year 2021 Meg Vogel



When I interned at The Enquirer in 2011, one of my early assignments was following Congressman Steve Chabot in a canoe down the Mill Creek with the yacht club. It was one of those days that makes you feel so lucky to be a photojournalist. I never forgot that day and that feeling. Ten years later, I was grateful to return to the creek to tell the story of this dedicated and resilient team, the Mill Creek Yacht Club.

Meg Vogel works as a staff photographer for her hometown newspaper, The Enquirer, focusing on documentary photo and video storytelling. The Ohio News Photographers Association honored Vogel as the photographer of the year in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Her work has been recognized by organizations including World Press Photo, National Edward R. Murrow Awards, Best of Photojournalism, National Press Photographers Association and Ohio Valley Emmy Awards. She was an associate producer and visual journalist on 'Seven Days of Heroin,' awarded the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting. Vogel graduated from Ohio University. She volunteers for Save the Rain, a nonprofit that builds rainwater harvesting systems in Tanzania. Vogel mentors young photojournalists and high school students. She enjoys traveling to far corners of the world, traipsing through jungles and trekking up

**grandma, his full-time caregivers, mountains to tell stories and meet
the week he came home. His new people.
grandma said, 'It's hard to see
him like this. But you don't think
about this for long. You think
about the spunky MJ from
before.' And his mom replied,
'His brain is still developing. He's
only 8. We're still healing.'**

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