

# Minorities

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were given radioactive pills during a study that resulted in a followup 20 years later that determined three children born to women in the study likely died from the exposure.

## COVID-19 impact Black people

But the truth is, Black Americans are hit harder by COVID-19, at a 2.9 times the rate of white Americans, and die at a rate 1.9 higher than whites, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Latinos are hospitalized at more than three times the rate and die more than twice the rate of white Americans.

But Vincent-Williams, like Solomon Woodson, is a proponent of the vaccine, having taken video and photos of her experience receiving the vaccine recently in hopes that minorities in Sandusky County will be inspired to seek the vaccine and turn aside any uneasiness about receiving the dosage.

"There's a lot about it that I don't trust but at this point, I trust the vaccine," Vincent-Williams said. "At some point you just have to trust."

She said community leaders like herself can get the vaccine, but cutting through skepticism in the Black community must come from trustworthy people such as pastors, friends and family members who would help persuade a skeptic to get the vaccine.

"They don't trust us either," Vincent-Williams said. "People have these weird expectations of is it going to change my DNA, is it going to make something happen down the road. There are a lot of myths out there."

Some pastors in the community do not support the vaccine, Vincent-Williams said.

The News-Messenger attempted to reach out to pastors of Black churches in the community but none would respond to questions regarding their stance on the vaccine or whether they will tell their congregation to take the vaccine.

As much as the vaccine is helpful in stopping the spread and keeping people safe, Vincent-Williams said other safety precautions such as washing hands, wearing masks and keeping six feet apart for social distancing are factors in the disproportionate amount of cases among Black people.

"Most of the information was distributed via internet, somebody's website, somebody's computer, and I've asked myself how many Black people really have

time to sit around and visit websites, especially the CDC (Centers for Disease Control)," Vincent-Williams said. "People are trying to work, they're trying to take care of their families."

## Challenges in reaching elderly

And for the elderly population, seeking information on the internet about registering for the vaccine or safety precautions becomes a challenge.

To help avoid messages being lost, Vincent-Williams printed out copies of safety practices to stay safe and dispersed them across many of the churches in the area to help inform Black people of the dangers of COVID-19 and how to stay safe.

"No one really knew what COVID was all about," she said. "And Black people are going to be hesitant, because they think they will be used as Guinea pigs."

She said her goal is to try and get information on the vaccine out the same way to ensure everyone in the community has access to the same information found on websites.

Cases reported among Black people are coming in a disproportionate rate, according to Ohio Department of Health data.

Among cases in Ohio 10.1% of COVID-19 cases are reported to be Black people, a demographic that makes up 14% of the state's population.

And the number of Black people hospitalized is now at 18.1% while 11% of deaths are of Black people.

One uncertainty in the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths is when a person's race is listed as unknown. In Ohio, 21.4% of cases are of an unknown race, while 5.1% of people whose race is listed as unknown are hospitalized and die from the virus.

## Outreach better with trust

Even though Vincent-Williams is a leader in the community, she said she is not convinced her outreach championing minorities to get the vaccine will inspire much change, despite data from the state showing minorities are dying at a higher rate from COVID-19.

"I've got some of my friends who say they don't want the vaccine because they developed it too quickly, there was not enough time," Vincent-Williams said. "These are educated people who are saying this."

Vincent-Williams told the News-Messenger 84 Black residents in Sandusky County have been inoculated. There have been around 8,000 residents in total who have signed up to take the vaccine.

The county receives about 100 to 200 shots per

week and is currently vaccinating people age 65 and up as well as school personnel who are set to return to the classroom for instruction four days per week starting March 1.

But Vincent-Williams will still champion for Black people to get the vaccine, knowing it can save lives despite not knowing everything about the vaccine or how effective it will be for Black people.

As of Thursday there have been a reported 157 COVID-19 cases among Black people in Sandusky County with 16 hospitalizations, one death and 151 presumed to have recovered.

## COVID-19 disparities

According to U.S. Census data, Black people make up about 4.7%, approximately 2,000 of the nearly 59,000 residents in Sandusky County.

Around 10% of the county's population is Hispanic, according to census data. Hispanics case totals in Sandusky County have reached 420, with 42 hospitalizations and 10 deaths.

Woodson said his pastor, Alfonzo Vann, of New Revelations Church, 816 South St., is encouraging his congregation to get the vaccine.

Although aware of the long history of malpractice with minorities receiving the vaccine, Woodson said he never hesitated when it came to whether he was getting the vaccine.

"I never thought about it until I heard about it on the news," Woodson said of the Tuskegee history. "I am aware of the long history from years ago how that was, but it never occurred to me."

## Vaccine a 'gift from God'

Woodson said the vaccine rolling out less than a year after the country saw its first cases was a "gift from God" and when he found out he would be in line to get the vaccine after falling into the first phase of Ohio's vaccination rollout.

Although the rollout has been slowed due to a shortage of the vaccine, many Sandusky County residents are signing up to receive their inoculations.

And Vincent-Williams said she believes the state and local leaders have not done enough to promote the vaccine to minorities populations.

Vincent-Williams said the health department did call her to get her involved in calling pastors of black churches and how they can get information into the Black community.

In addition to skepticism among Black people getting the vaccine, are those minorities who have registered to get the vaccine but have yet to be called to received their inoculation.

## Tracking vaccines

Allison Smith, an epidemiologist with Sandusky County Public Health, has been working with Vincent-Williams to get the word out to minority communities regarding the vaccine.

Smith said 2.38% of the Black population has been vaccinated to this point with many who have not claimed race or ethnicity on their reporting, compared to about 8.04% of the white population that has been vaccinated. Smith said almost 10% of the entire county's population has received at least one of the required two-doses of the vaccine.

"We're doing pretty good at almost getting to 10% with only 400 doses a week," Smith said.

As far as who gets those limited shots, Smith said the doses are given out to the people who signed up first. And with more than 8,000 signed up and so few shots available, the vaccine shortage has created a backlog.

Smith did say as the new tiers were announced by Gov. Mike DeWine in prioritizing the vaccine recipients, that people in the younger age groups were then spliced into the older groups still waiting for their shots.

Though some elderly Ohioans were on a pause, Smith said they are still going to receive their vaccine as other age groups enter the fray. Because of the vaccine shortfall, the state has paused extending age groups younger than 65 until the state can catch up to the demand.

For anyone seeking information regarding the vaccine, Smith said they can avoid the internet and call multiple agencies across Sandusky County to register for the vaccine.

Residents can reach the United Way at 419-334-2720, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership at 419-334-8181 and the health department 419-334-6377.

Inoculations are being done at Sandusky County Health Department, Bellevue Hospital, ProMedica Memorial Hospital and Discount Drug Mart in Clyde.

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# Obituaries

## TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

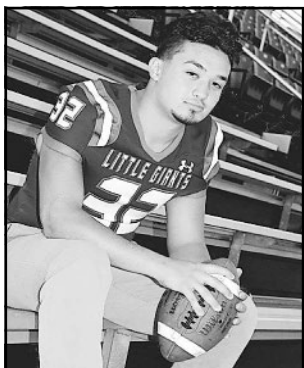
Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Adkins, Joshua Jordan	18	Fremont	22-Feb	Herman-Karlovetz Funeral Home & Crematory
*Shaffer, Robert W.	76	Elmore	24-Feb	Crosser & Priesman Funeral Home & Cremation Service
Shiple, William Raymond	84	Statham	23-Feb	Lord & Stephens Funeral Home
Windschman-Auld, Mary A.	75	Toledo, OH	24-Feb	Robinson-Walker Funeral Home & Crematory

### \* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at [www.TheNews-Messenger.com/Obituaries](http://www.TheNews-Messenger.com/Obituaries)

### Joshua Jordan Adkins

**FREMONT** - Joshua Jordan Adkins, 18, entered into his rest on Monday, February 22, 2021. He was born on July 24, 2002 in Fremont to J.R. and Mysti (Recny) Adkins. He graduated from Fremont Ross High School in 2020, but had been a student in Gibsonburg until his junior year.



Josh was a dedicated and hard worker; and was currently working for the Adkins Group. Even at an early age, he was hands on at the Adkins Group and on the Recny Farm. It was evident to everyone, what you see is what you get with Josh. He had a big heart and a caring nature toward animals and little kids. He enjoyed hanging out with his friends and family, working out with coworkers, and teasing you any chance he could get. He was a member of Triumph Foundation Church. Josh enjoyed politics and watching UFC; he played football during high school, was a gifted competitor and liked all sports.

In addition to his parents, left to cherish his memory are siblings, Joseph Joziah Adkins currently stationed in Germany and Gabrielle Rae Adkins of Fremont; grandparents, Mark & Viola Recny of Hessville and John & Priscilla Adkins of Fremont; great grandparents, James & Ima Jean Adkins of Fremont, Rosa Reyes of Fremont, Martin Recny of Hessville and Moises Hernandez of Gibsonburg; girlfriend, Navaeh Hernandez; along with numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

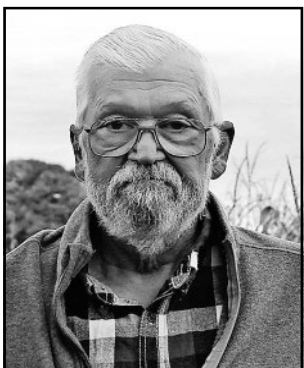
He is preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Aedo Reyes, Phyllis Recny, Delia Hernandez and Mary Lou Adkins; cousin, Jordon Matthew Adkins; aunt, Jessica Recny; and his beloved dog, Parker.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Joshua Adkins Memorial Fund.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 4th at Ole Zim's Wagon Shed, 1375 N. OH-590, Gibsonburg, OH 43431 from 4-8 p.m. Those attending are required to wear a mask to enter the facility. Please be patient as admittance will be guided to adhere to social distancing. A Celebration of Life Services will be held on Friday, March 5th 11 a.m. at Ole Zim's Wagon Shed with visitation beginning at 9:00 a.m. Pastor George Barrett will officiate. Burial and Committal Services will be Private. To share an online condolence or to view Josh's tribute video, visit: [www.hermanfh.com](http://www.hermanfh.com). If you are unable to attend but would like to be added to the families register book, please call 419-332-7391.

### Robert W. Shaffer

**ELMORE** - Robert W. Shaffer, 76 of Elmore, OH died Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at Mercy- St. Charles Hospital, Oregon, OH. He was born March 25, 1944 in Fremont, OH to the late Benjamin and Hilda (Schott) Shaffer. He was a 1964 graduate of Harris- Elmore High School.



He served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War in the 221st shotgun birddog forward air control unit. On July 1, 1973 he married the former Mary Ross and she survives. Bob retired as a crane operator in 2008 from Whirlpool in Clyde, OH. He was a member of Church of the Nazarene in Fremont, OH and a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Marblehead Station.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years Mary; daughter Dawn Ann Shaffer; grandson Logan Caleb Walker; brother William Shaffer; and sister Betty Brown, all of Elmore, OH. He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Rebecca Lynn Walker, brother Roy Shaffer, and sister Mary Shaffer.

Visitation will be Sunday from 2-8pm at the Crosser & Priesman Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 19550 W. SR. 51, Elmore, OH 43416. Private Family Funeral Services will begin at 11am Monday, March 1, 2021 at Church of the Nazarene, Fremont, OH with the Rev. Daniel Vickey officiating. Due to the Covid19 Pandemic, a reminder of Social Distancing and Facial Coverings will be necessary for all attendees. Burial will be at a later date in Harris- Elmore Union Cemetery, Elmore, OH. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Church of the Nazarene, or Portage Holiness Camp. Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.crosserpriesmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.crosserpriesmanfuneralhome.com).



# Statue

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and Midwestern toughness, that's my kind of guy," Cottrill continued.

The statue is a departure from Cottrill's preferred style, and his team spent hours painstakingly researching Glenn's space suit and equipment. Cottrill focused on the stature's stance, gesture and proportions, and concentrated his efforts on the face and hands. It is a combination of the energy Cottrill strives for and the detail the public demands from a stature of a historical figure.

The 7-foot, 600-pound bronze statue features Glenn standing, legs apart, pointing skyward with his right hand. His helmet is tucked under his right arm.

"The pose, the gesture, is highly important to me," Cottrill said. "The statue is exactly what I wanted, just the attitude, pride, a degree of cockiness, and pointing to his achievements, our achievements as a country, and future achievements in space. He's saying, that's where I have been."

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