

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/business/residents-benefit-from-chaffey-colleges-intech-center-in-fontana-and-s-b-countys-workforce-development/article\\_43665450-dea4-11eb-8c49-af24acb62a4a.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/business/residents-benefit-from-chaffey-colleges-intech-center-in-fontana-and-s-b-countys-workforce-development/article_43665450-dea4-11eb-8c49-af24acb62a4a.html)

## Residents benefit from Chaffey College's InTech Center in Fontana and S.B. County's Workforce Development Board

Jul 6, 2021



Mitchell Devin and his wife Mui benefitted from programs offered by Chaffey College's InTech Center in Fontana and the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board.

With his focus on the future and a family to help support, Mitchell Devin took matters into his own hands after he was furloughed from his job in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.



“I wanted to become a better person than I was yesterday,” Devin said of his decision to pursue additional skills training with the support of his wife Mui, Chaffey College and the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB).

Devin used his newly found down time to go back to school and retrain himself as an industrial electrical engineer. Today he is re-employed and better positioned than he has ever been for future career opportunities.

The father of three daughters, Devin hopes his story inspires others to take advantage of the workforce support services that are available in San Bernardino County, home to one of the strongest local economies in California.

Statistics from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) show that employers in San Bernardino County have created or restored nearly 100,000 jobs since the low point of the pandemic just over a year ago. Even so, many employers report that they’re having difficulty filling critical-need positions due to enhanced unemployment benefits.

For Devin and his wife, who also lost her job, sitting at home was never an option. Mui Devin enrolled at Chaffey College to study medical billing and coding. While there, she came across a flier for the college’s Industrial Technical Learning Center (InTech) in Fontana, a public-private partnership designed to train and upskill workers for high-demand jobs.

The program is free of charge to participants, thanks to funding and support from partners such as WDB, and for Mitchell Devin, that was too good a deal to pass up.

“Chaffey College, InTech and Workforce Development have written one of the greatest chapters in my life,” he said. “I wanted to add more value to myself -- to enhance the skills I already had and use this time to get me to the next level in my career.”

It all prepared him for his current job as a general maintenance associate at Walmart -- a career path that has already improved his and his family’s quality of life: “In August, I send my eldest daughter to UC Berkeley, and I can help support her now.”

Curt Hagman, Chairman of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, said Mitchell and Mui Devin’s determination in the face of adversity sets a powerful example for others to follow.



“It’s often said, but a job is more than a paycheck, and the Devins are living proof of that. I applaud them for seizing this opportunity to advance their own skills and position themselves for some of the great careers that are available throughout San Bernardino County,” Hagman said.

Phil Cothran, the WDB Chairman, said there are plenty of great training and career opportunities available for job seekers in the county. WDB operates three America’s Job Centers of California, and provides a wide variety of programs and support for those looking to increase their skillsets and advance their careers.

“The economic recovery is in full swing, and for job seekers, the opportunities that are available now are unlike anything we’ve seen in years,” said Cothran, a Fontana resident and businessman. “We strongly encourage anyone who is out of work or looking to advance their careers to take this important step forward -- today.”

For information on the career programs and services available, visit the WDB website at:  
<https://wp.sbcounty.gov/workforce/>



# San Bernardino County Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr. highlights progress made in part to the American Rescue Plan

By Manny B. Sandoval - July 6, 2021



Courtesy photo: San Bernardino County's Fifth District Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr. is busy assisting the county in generating its roadmap to revitalization to assist the county bounce back from the economic distress caused by COVID-19.

On June 23, San Bernardino County Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr. held a special roundtable to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

During the roundtable discussion, the county provided insight into how the \$423 million funds have assisted the county in its economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, welcoming dialogue from Congressman Pete Aguilar, and accepting questions from community panelists.

“Our special virtual roundtable on the four-year American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make critical investments in our county. The last 16 months have been extremely difficult for all of us; we’ve been living through unwarranted times due to the COVID-19 Pandemic,” said Baca, Jr.

Some of those investments include homeless services and housing, testing, vaccines, and department response, economic development strategy, infrastructure improvements, and county system improvements.

Baca, Jr. continued, “I’ve been serving as your supervisor for the past 6 months and the entirety of my time serving has been through the pandemic. Responding to COVID-19

and creating pathways has been my top priority for my office since my first day as supervisor.”

Back in December, when Baca, Jr. was sworn in, the County’s priority was to ensure that the infrastructure was in place to provide equitable distribution of vaccines to all residents and they successfully delivered upon their promise.

During the roundtable discussion, Aguilar chimed in to strengthen camaraderie and share how forthcoming initiatives will elevate the local economy.

“The American Rescue Plan established the Child Tax Credit. Advance Payments will begin on July 15 and last through the end of 2021 and most families in our community, 90 percent, will be eligible to receive up to 300 per child each month,” shared Aguilar.

Aguilar also noted that in May 2021, San Bernardino County saw the lowest unemployment numbers since before the pandemic.

“This bill was important to our community because it provided direct funding to our county and local governments...San Bernardino County received \$423 million; San Bernardino received \$77 million; Fontana received \$50 million; Rialto received \$29 million; and Colton received \$14 million,” continued Aguilar.

Two forthcoming initiatives Aguilar is currently working on include the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, which will help elevate the economy in San Bernardino County.

“We need to make sure our communities get these much-needed resources and do not get left behind during this period of recovery. If you or your family members have social service needs, please give us a call at (909) 890-4445 to get in touch with me and my team. We need to work together to ensure that the Inland Empire thrives and I look forward to our continued conversation and friendship along the way,” concluded Aguilar.

For more information, visit <https://www.sbcounty.gov/bosd5/>.

---

---

**Manny B. Sandoval**



CALIFORNIA

# Delta variant dominates California coronavirus cases; rapid spread alarms officials





Kalvin Green,15, left, holds the hand of his mother, Marilyn Green, as nurse Marie Eddins administers a COVID-19 vaccine. Those who have been fully vaccinated are believed to have high levels of protection against the Delta variant. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

By RONG-GONG LIN II, LUKE MONEY

JULY 6, 2021 9:07 AM PT



The rise of the highly contagious Delta variant [is causing increases](#) in new coronavirus cases and hospitalizations in California and prompting concern about new spread of the illness in unvaccinated communities.

While those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are believed to have high levels of protection against the variant, more people who have not been vaccinated are [getting sick](#), data show.

Here is a breakdown of what we know and where the Delta variant might be going in California and beyond.

## The spread

- **Nationwide:** The Delta variant is spreading rapidly in the U.S. The director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, [said](#) recent data show that 25% of analyzed coronavirus cases nationwide are of the Delta variant. In some areas of the country, nearly half the analyzed cases are the Delta variant. By contrast, from May 9-22, the Delta variant [made up](#) less than 3% of analyzed coronavirus samples nationwide.
- **California:** New [data](#) released by the California Department of Public Health show 35.6% of coronavirus variants analyzed in June have been identified as the Delta variant, which was first identified in India. That's a dramatic increase from May, when it accounted for just 5.6% of analyzed coronavirus cases in California and was the state's fourth most identified variant. Delta is now more widespread than the previous dominant strain, Alpha, which was [first identified in the United Kingdom](#) and accounted for 34.3% of analyzed coronavirus cases in June. Alpha was the state's most dominant strain in April and May, outpacing the California variant, now known as Epsilon, which currently occurs in less than 2% of analyzed cases. Delta is now the dominant variant in California.
- **L.A. County:** Los Angeles County started seeing upticks of Delta cases in early April. In May, the county had fewer than 20 identified Delta cases a week, but by June, there were 60 to 80. For the week that ended June 19, Delta made up nearly 50% of all cases analyzed in L.A. County; four weeks earlier, it accounted for less than 5%. Delta has been identified in 245 coronavirus cases so far in L.A. County, with early clusters identified in Palmdale and Lancaster. Fourteen cases of the Delta variant occurred among residents of a single household.
- **Hospitalizations:** The number of Californians hospitalized for COVID-19 fell to 915 on June 12 — the lowest it has been since the state began tracking cases. But since then, hospitalizations have been creeping back up. On Saturday, there were 1,097 COVID-19 patients in hospitals statewide, a 20% increase. COVID-19



hospitalizations in L.A. County hit a record low of 212 on June 12. But Saturday, there were 284 hospitalized patients — a 34% increase, though far below the peak of 8,098 hospitalized patients during the worst days of the pandemic.

- **Deaths:** L.A. County's data show that [if you're fully vaccinated](#), you're at very little risk of becoming seriously ill or dying. Countywide, 99.8% of people who have died from COVID-19 since December were not vaccinated.
- **Community spread:** Coronavirus case and hospitalization rates are worsening for [Los Angeles County's Black residents](#). Between mid-May and mid-June, the COVID-19 case rate over a two-week-period rose 18% among Black residents but declined 4% for Latino residents, 6% for white residents and 25% for Asian American residents. And the hospitalization rate for Black residents — who are less likely than other racial and ethnic groups to be vaccinated — grew by 11% while declining for Asian American residents by 12%, Latino residents by 29% and white residents by 37%.

ADVERTISEMENT

**Vaccinations**

- In Los Angeles County, 51% of the population is [fully vaccinated](#). But some 4 million of the county's 10 million residents have not had a single dose of vaccine. That includes 1.3 million children under 12, who are not yet eligible for the shots.
- San Francisco has 68% of its population fully vaccinated, and Santa Clara — Northern California's most populous county — stands at 66%.

## Mask wearing

- Hoping to slow the spread of the Delta variant, Los Angeles County took an unusual step. In recommending [that all residents wear masks](#) in public indoor spaces — regardless of whether they've been vaccinated for COVID-19 — the nation's most-populous county is an outlier. “We have enough risk and enough unvaccinated people for Delta to pose a threat to our recovery. And masking up now could help prevent a resurgence in transmission,” L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said last week.
- Neither state nor federal health officials have taken that step. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-diseases expert, maintained last week that COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective against all known variants, including Delta. “If you are vaccinated, you have a high degree of protection — so you need not wear a mask, either indoor or outdoor,” Fauci said, while adding that local health authorities are free to offer different recommendations or mandates than federal guidance.
- Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently [told](#) reporters: “From my own perspective, if you're going into a heavily crowded area, you don't know if somebody is not vaccinated, and so you should just bring your mask with you and keep safe.”

CAPITOL ALERT

## Capitol Alert

# Mask mandate back at California Capitol after outbreak of nine new COVID cases

BY HANNAH WILEY

JULY 06, 2021 10:00 PM, UPDATED 1 HOUR 55 MINUTES AGO



California Governor Gavin Newsom announces a new COVID-19 vaccination incentive plan. Californians could win up to \$1.5 million on June 15 in a lottery Governor Gavin Newsom hopes will convince more people to get coronavirus shots. BY CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR



The California state Capitol has reinstated its mask mandate for all legislators and staff regardless of vaccination status after an outbreak of nine new COVID-19 cases was reported among employees last week.

Effective immediately, masks will have to be worn in the Capitol, Legislative Office Building and district offices, Secretary of the Senate Erika Contreras and Assembly Chief Administrative Officer Debra Gravert wrote in Tuesday memos.

Unvaccinated members and employees will also be required to get tested for the virus twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays, beginning July 8. The rapid antigen testing will be conducted in the Capitol from 7 to 9 a.m.

Vaccinated members are also encouraged to get tested if they want. Four of the nine recent cases were among those who've been fully vaccinated.

The Senate has a fully vaccinated rate of 85% among all its employees, according to Contreras. The Assembly has reported an 84% rate, Gravert said. Members and staff had previously been asked to [submit their vaccination status](#) to Capitol Health Services.

[Breakthrough cases are rare, but expected](#), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Getting vaccinated, however, often protects individuals from severe illness and death.

“As we know from these most recent cases, even fully vaccinated individuals can be infected with COVID-19,” Contreras wrote in her memo to senators and staff.

“However, public health experts indicate that fully vaccinated individuals are less

likely to suffer the most serious symptoms of COVID-19, and for this reason, the Senate continues to encourage all staff to protect themselves by receiving the vaccine.”

The new rules come less than a month after the Capitol [reopened its doors](#) to more members of the public and began [lifting some pandemic rules](#).

The California Department of Public Health recommended the testing and mask changes after the Assembly reported the nine new infections. At least [seven of those infected reportedly worked in the same Assembly office](#), which has not been identified.

The workers had recently been in the Capitol, though they reportedly wore masks while in the building. The memos said they were adhering to quarantine recommendations, and those who had been in close contact with them were notified and tested.

The state’s [COVID-19 labor rules](#) also require certain immediate action like testing and mandatory quarantining once more than three cases are reported in a workplace within 14 days.

**RELATED STORIES FROM SACRAMENTO BEE**

## States and Cities Scramble to Spend \$350 Billion Windfall

The Biden administration is betting on the funds to keep the recovery humming, but Republicans say the money is being wasted.

By Glenn Thrush and Alan Rappeport

Published July 6, 2021 Updated July 7, 2021, 10:19 a.m. ET

WASHINGTON — When Steve Adler, the mayor of Austin, heard the Biden administration planned to give billions of dollars to states and localities in the \$1.9 trillion pandemic aid package, he knew exactly what he wanted to do with his cut.

The remarkable growth of the Texas capital, fueled by a technology boom, has long been shadowed by a rise in homelessness, so local officials had already cobbled together \$200 million for a program to help Austin's 3,200 homeless people. When the relief package passed this spring, the city government quickly steered 40 percent of its take, about \$100 million, to fortify that effort.

“The inclination is to spread money around like peanut butter, so that you help out a lot of people who need relief,” Mr. Adler, a Democrat, said in an interview. “But nobody really gets all that they need when you do that.”



The mayor of Austin, Steve Adler, steered \$100 million of pandemic relief funding to initiatives that help the homeless population. Ilana Panich-Linsman for The New York Times

The stimulus package that President Biden signed into law in March was intended to stabilize state and city finances drained by the coronavirus crisis, providing \$350 billion to alleviate the pandemic's effect, with few restrictions on how the money could be used.

Three months after its passage, cash is starting to flow — \$194 billion so far, according to the Treasury Department — and officials are devoting funds to a range of efforts, including keeping public service workers on the payroll, helping the fishing industry, improving broadband access and aiding the homeless.

“It's not like all places are rushing out to do the most aspirational things, since the first thing they need to do is replace lost revenue,” said Mark Muro, a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution, a nonpartisan Washington think tank. “But there is much more flexibility in this program than in previous stimulus packages, so there is more potential for creativity.”

The local decisions are taking on greater national urgency as the Biden administration negotiates with Republicans in Congress over a bipartisan infrastructure package. Some Republican lawmakers want money from previous relief packages to be repurposed to pay for infrastructure, arguing that many states are in far better financial shape than expected and the money should be put to better use.

The administration, sensitive to those concerns, has begun bending the program's rules to allow the money to be spent even more broadly. In May, the Treasury Department told states they could use their funding to pay for lotteries intended to encourage vaccinations. In June, President Biden prodded local governments to consider using the cash to address the recent rise in violent crime, which his aides regard as a serious political hazard heading into the 2022 midterm elections.

For the most part, local officials have been focused on undoing the damage of the past year and a half.



Maine officials are looking to spend \$16 million to bolster the fishing industry, which is facing a combination of lobster shortages and hungry consumers, flush with money after more than a year in lockdown. Alaska is already pouring cash into its fishing sector.

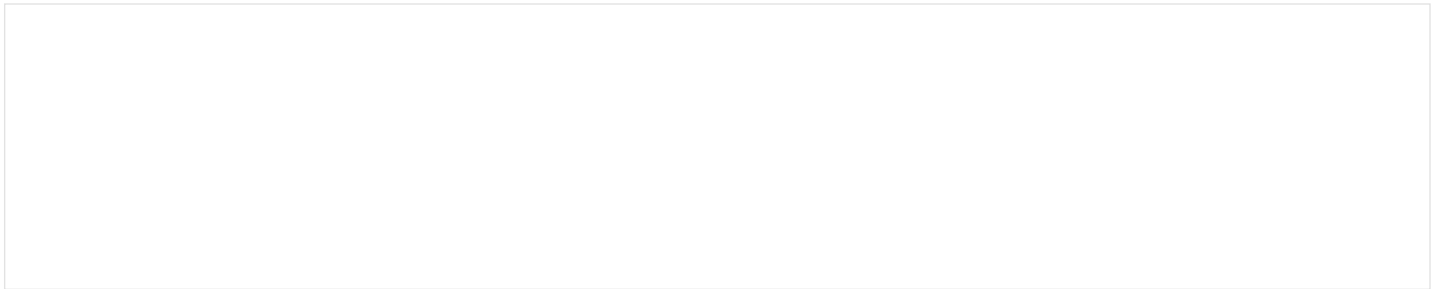
In North Carolina, the concerns are more terrestrial: The governor wants to direct \$45 million in relief funds to the motor sports sector, which took a hit when the pandemic halted NASCAR.



Maine officials are looking to spend \$16 billion to bolster the fishing industry, which is facing a combination of lobster shortages and hungry consumers, flush with money after more than a year in lockdown. Greta Rybus for The New York Times

In conservative-leaning states like Wyoming that did not incur major budget deficits during the coronavirus, officials have been freed to spend much of their cash on infrastructure improvements, especially rural broadband.

Places like Orange County, Calif., that poured significant funding into fighting the spread of the pandemic are using a lot of their money to pay for huge community vaccination campaigns. And the midsize cities that make up the county — Irvine, Garden Grove and Anaheim — are directing most of their \$715 million to plug virus-ravaged budgets.



Last week, New York City passed its largest budget ever, about \$99 billion, bolstered by \$14 billion in federal pandemic aid that will be used in nearly every facet of the city's finances, like an infusion of cash needed to cover budget gaps and an array of new programs, including youth job initiatives, college scholarships and a \$1 billion backup fund for health emergencies.

Local officials, especially Democrats, have tried to leverage at least some of the windfall to address chronic social and economic problems that the coronavirus exacerbated.

After a series of community meetings in Detroit, Mayor Mike Duggan and the City Council opted for a plan that divided the city's \$826 million payout roughly in half, with about \$400 million going to recoup Covid-19 losses, and \$426 million to an array of job-creation programs, grants for home repairs and funding to revitalize blighted neighborhoods.

In Philadelphia, officials are considering using \$18 million of the new aid to test a "universal basic income" pilot program to help poor people. That is among the uses specifically suggested in the administration's guidance. Several other big cities, including Chicago, are considering similar plans.

The Cherokee Nation, which is receiving \$1.8 billion of the \$20 billion set aside for tribal governments, is replicating the law's signature initiative — direct cash payments to citizens — by sending \$2,000 checks to around 400,000 members of the tribe in multiple states.

The \$350 billion program has led to legal battles, with officials in many Republican-led states fighting one of the few restrictions placed on use of the money, a prohibition against deploying it to subsidize tax cuts, and partisan clashes erupting over which projects should have been given priority.

And the cash has spawned partisan conflict. Gov. Mark Gordon of Wyoming, a Republican, announced this month that the state would use only a fraction of the approximately \$1 billion it was expected to receive on emergency expenditures this year, and would discuss how to use the rest.

“These are dollars borrowed by Congress from many generations yet to come,” he said in a statement this spring.

The idea of the federal government distributing such vast sums has been charged from the start. Republican lawmakers successfully blocked a large state and local package during the Trump administration, denouncing it as a “blue-state bailout” that helped fiscally-irresponsible local governments.

Not a single Republican in either house of Congress voted for the bill. Yet the vast majority of officials from conservative states have welcomed the aid without much fuss. In general, Republican governors and agency officials have tilted toward financing economic development and infrastructure improvements, particularly for upgrading broadband in rural areas, rather than funding social programs.

When the administration updates the guidance for the funding this summer, they are likely to loosen the restrictions on internet-related projects at the behest of Republican state officials, a senior White House official said.

One of the most ambitious plans in the nation is being formulated by Indiana, a Republican-controlled state that is using \$500 million of the stimulus money for projects aimed at stemming the decades-long exodus of workers from postindustrial towns and cities.

“It’s huge — it’s found money — nobody thought it was going to be there,” said Luke Bosso, the chief of staff at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, which has been working on the effort for years.



Cleveland-Cliffs steel mill in Burns Harbor, Ind. Indiana is using its stimulus funds on projects aimed at stemming the exodus of workers from postindustrial towns and cities. Taylor Glascock for The New York Times

While lawmakers in Washington debate the scope of a new infrastructure bill this year, the package that passed in March already represents a major down payment for a variety of infrastructure projects.

Christy McFarland, the research director of the National League of Cities, said that many cities across the country were preparing to put money into infrastructure projects that had been delayed by the pandemic, and investing in more affordable housing and spending on core needs such as water, sewer and broadband.

However, she said she was also seeing creative ideas such as recurring payments to the poor and investments in remote work support emerge as cities look to expand their safety nets and modernize their work forces.

“We’re also seeing communities that never recovered from the Great Recession, have an opportunity to think much bigger,” Ms. McFarland said. “They’re asking what they could do that would be transformational.”

The slow pace of recovery from the last recession has been a driving force behind the White House’s push. Mr. Biden has been eager to avoid a mistake that hobbled the last recovery’s pace — underestimating the drag that faltering local governments would have on the national economy. Gene Sperling, a former Obama adviser now overseeing Mr. Biden’s pandemic relief efforts, said not providing help to

local governments meant annual economic growth “of about 2 percent versus growth of 3 percent.”

The effort also serves Mr. Biden’s political objectives by bypassing national Republicans to build trust with voters in rural counties, small towns and midsize cities in the Midwest and elsewhere.

“Something like this creates a space for a White House to be talking to governors and mayors of both parties about the basic mechanisms of governing that just cuts through the politics,” Mr. Sperling said. “That’s a good thing.”

# DAILY PRESS

---

## NEWS

# Sheriff's aviation team rescues 68-year-old hiker near Mount Baldy

**Rene Ray De La Cruz** Victorville Daily Press

Published 3:37 p.m. PT Jul. 6, 2021

A Sheriff's aviation team rescued a 68-year-old hiker after she suffered a medical emergency near the Mount Baldy area south of Wrightwood.

The team rescued Buena Park resident Jung Hee Koh, 68, who became overheated and exhausted, Monday and she was taken to a hospital by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Helicopter 40-King-1 team.

Sheriff's officials said Koh, went hiking with a friend along the Devil's Backbone Trail toward the summit of Mount Baldy, just before 1 p.m.

Authorities have previously described the Devils' Backbone, which approaches the peak of Mount Baldy, as a very narrow trail at points, with sheer drop-offs on each side that are in the hundreds of feet.

Koh continued alone toward the summit after her friend decided to head back, and became overheated, exhausted and unable to continue, sheriff's officials said.

Koh sat down on the trail at just over the 9,800-foot level. Several unrelated hikers later found her, realized she was having a medical emergency and called 911.

Due to the remote location and terrain, a sheriff's helicopter responded and located Koh and the other hikers on the trail.

The aviation crew conducted an off-site landing on a clearing at the 9,900-foot level, roughly 200 yards from Koh, because of the altitude and high temperatures.

Fire Captain Scott Leidner hiked to Koh, assessed her condition and found that she was unable to walk. He then carried her on his back from the trail to the helicopter.

The crew flew Koh to Cow Canyon Saddle, a turnout that first responders often use to drop off victims, and transferred her to a waiting ambulance for medical care.

Sheriff's officials believe Koh is fortunate to be found by other hikers, who were able to assist and recommend that hikers not travel alone.

***Daily Press reporter Rene Ray De La Cruz may be reached at 760-951-6227 or RDeLaCruz@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter @DP\_ReneDeLaCruz.***



Lauren Cho, 30, moved from New Jersey to Bombay Beach on the Salton Sea in December 2020.



## Sheriff's Department suspends search for Lauren Cho

Jul 06, 2021 5:04 PM



By Stacy Moore  
Hi-Desert Star

MORONGO VALLEY — The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department has classified 30-year-old Lauren Cho as a missing person and suspended its search and rescue operation in the hills of Morongo and Yucca Valley. Cho went missing June 28.



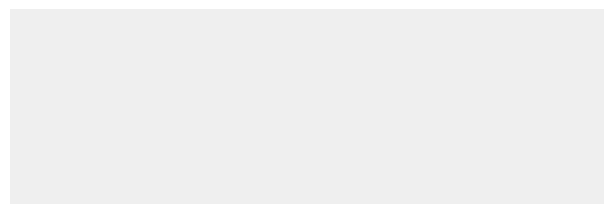
“At this time, there is a current investigation, there is no particular person of interest, and all avenues of leads are being looked into,” Sgt. S. Stafford from the Morongo Basin sheriff’s station said Tuesday, July 6.

The search was suspended on Friday, July 2, and there are no new leads on her whereabouts, Stafford said.

Sheriff’s investigators do not expect to resume the search for Cho unless they receive new information, he added.

“This is being treated as a missing persons investigation and not a search and rescue anymore,” Stafford said. “The detectives in our investigation division are currently working the case.”

Cho, 30, was last seen at 3 p.m. Monday, June 28, in the area of Hoopa Road and Ben Mar Trail in Morongo Valley. She was on foot, at least at first,



wearing a yellow T-shirt and jean shorts.

Her friend Cody Orell is the last known person to have seen her. The two, who met in New Jersey and used to date, were staying on a friend's property. On the afternoon of June 28, he went into the tour bus that they'd crossed the country and lived in and she apparently walked away.

"There was a 10-minute window there and she evaporated," Orell said in a phone interview Thursday, July 1.

Friends who called the sheriff's station said she was suicidal and talked about leaving everything, according to media logs.

According to the sheriff's report of Orell's call for help, placed at 5:13 p.m., Cho walked into the hills between Yucca Valley and Morongo Valley. Orell tried to find her and then called their circle of friends for help. He told the sheriff's station she didn't take her phone, water or food.

"I searched all in the hills and no tracks, anywhere," he said.

When law enforcement searchers joined the effort, he said, "They found all of my tracks and my friends' tracks, but none of hers."

The sheriff's helicopter and members of the search and rescue unit were actively searching until Friday, July 2.

Orell thinks she got into a vehicle with someone.

He's going over and over what happened and what might have happened to his friend.

"On Sunday (June 27) she was going out to meet someone and wasn't saying who. I didn't pry into it then, but of course now I wish...." he trailed off.

San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman Jody Miller told New Jersey media that there has been no evidence to suggest Cho walked into the desert or fell victim to foul play. Cho is considered voluntarily missing, Miller reportedly told a New Jersey radio station.

### **Following her dream to the Salton Sea**

Dissatisfied with her teaching job in New Jersey, Cho moved out west with Orell over the winter, driving across the U.S. in his tour bus. The two had met through mutual friends on Memorial Day and hit it off right away. He had always planned to come out west and she decided to join him.

"Lauren wanted a different life. She wanted to move from the East Coast and taste freedom," Orell said. "She quit her job and moved into the bus with me."

In December, they ended their journey in Bombay Beach, a tiny community of about 415 people at the Salton Sea.

Cho bought an old school bus and was converting it into a food truck. "The idea was she was going to come here and open the food truck and follow her

dreams," Orell said.

They were invited to stay at a friend's house in Yucca Valley and Cho started working as a private chef for a friend's Airbnb here.

"The dream was materializing," Orell said.

But she was also troubled.

"El's a super-talented person. ... She's one of those super-talented people who don't think they are," Orell said. "It's tragic. That sense of self-confidence isn't there."

Cho's friends just want to know she's safe.

"She's a wonderful person," Orell said. "El's great — great sense of humor. Just really sweet. She has a wonderful heart."

## Related Stories

[What happened to Lauren Cho?](#)

[Woman missing in Morongo Valley](#)

## 'Armed and dangerous' Monrovia man shot and killed his father in Rialto, police say



A Monrovia man accused of fatally shooting his father following a domestic dispute in Rialto is sought by authorities, police said. (Courtesy of the Rialto Police Department)

---

By **QUINN WILSON** | [qwilson@scng.com](mailto:qwilson@scng.com) |

PUBLISHED: July 6, 2021 at 5:01 p.m. | UPDATED: July 6, 2021 at 5:04 p.m.

---

A Monrovia man who police call “armed and dangerous” has been identified as shooting and killing his father following a domestic dispute in Rialto, authorities said.

Curtiss Booker Jr., 31, is named as the suspect in the July 5 shooting. The Rialto Police Department is asking for assistance locating Booker Jr., but they warn the public not to engage with him.

On Monday at about 11:16 a.m., Rialto police received several calls about a gunshot victim in the 400 block of East Chaparral Street. Responding officers found Curtiss Booker Sr., 58, of Temple City, lying in the front yard of a home, where he died from his injuries.

Witnesses said there was a dispute between Booker Sr. and Booker Jr. before Booker Jr. shot his father, according to police. Booker Jr. fled before officers arrived.

Detectives ask anyone with information about Booker Jr.'s whereabouts to anonymously report information through WeTip at 800-782-7463 or call Sgt. Mills at 909-820-2632 and reference case #932106153.

[Newsroom Guidelines](#)

[News Tips](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Report an Error](#)

 The Trust Project



[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland\\_empire\\_news/man-and-woman-are-arrested-after-deputies-find-weapon-and-ammunition-in-vehicle-in-rancho/article\\_45885cda-deac-11eb-908b-e778aee2f569.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/man-and-woman-are-arrested-after-deputies-find-weapon-and-ammunition-in-vehicle-in-rancho/article_45885cda-deac-11eb-908b-e778aee2f569.html)

## Man and woman are arrested after deputies find weapon and ammunition in vehicle in Rancho Cucamonga

Jul 6, 2021

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said that a man and woman were arrested after deputies allegedly found a weapon and ammunition in their vehicle following a routine traffic stop in Rancho Cucamonga on July 5.



A man and woman were arrested after deputies allegedly found a weapon and ammunition in their vehicle following a routine traffic stop in Rancho Cucamonga, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

On July 5 at about 3:49 a.m., deputies from the Rancho Cucamonga Station observed a blue Chevy Tahoe, with no brake lights, traveling north on Carnelian Street near Base Line Road.

Deputies conducted a traffic stop and contacted the driver, identified as Carlos Pacheco, a 57-year-old San Bernardino resident.

Deputies immediately observed a glass pipe near the steering wheel, two orange needle caps on the center console, and two hypodermic needles on the floorboard near the passenger seat, the Sheriff's Department said. Deputies also contacted a passenger, identified as Claudia Bello, a 25-year-old San Bernardino resident, sitting in the back seat and detained them both.

Deputies searched Pacheco and allegedly found four miscellaneous bullets in his pocket. When they searched the vehicle, they also located a bullet on the driver's seat, four loaded high capacity magazines, a short-barreled AR-15 with no serial number, and ammunition of various calibers.

Upon further investigation, deputies learned Pacheco is a convicted felon and was recently released on bail for an unrelated charge.

A records check on Bello revealed she had an outstanding warrant for possession of a controlled substance while armed.

Both Pacheco and Bello were arrested and booked in at West Valley Detention Center, where they remained in custody on \$50,000 bail each.