HURRICANE LAURA

Trump visits Lake Charles

Louisiana city of 80,000 has had no power for days, and many do not have running water

By Will Wright, Rick Rojas and Nicholas Bogol Burroughs
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LAKE CHARLES, La. — Days after Hurricane Laura slammed into Louisiana, hundreds of thousands of people remained without electricity Saturday, with the situation especially dire in Lake Charles, a city near the coast where nearly all 81,000 residents have been without power for days and many have no running water.

President Donald Trump arrived Saturday afternoon in the threadbare city, where residents were just beginning to pick up the pieces after the hurricane that made landfall Thursday as a Category 4 storm.

“Our hearts go out to the families that have lost loved ones,” Trump said during a stop in Lake Charles, expressing relief that the death toll was not higher. “It’s a tremendous number, but it could have been a lot worse.”

But Trump and the residents who were returning to their homes arrived in a city still pocked with peril, where the streets were obstacle courses filled with tangled power lines, fallen trees and debris from rooftops.

“We have water in some locations, but it’s a trickle,” Mayor Nic Hunter said in a telephone interview shortly before Trump’s visit, describing an overwhelmed water system that, combined with the near-total electricity failure, has left the city fraying in the moments after.

Sandra Stevens, who works as a housekeeper at a hospital, returned to her home for the first time Saturday. Her roof was torn apart, the windows were broken, and water had soaked her furniture and mattresses. The power was

Metro Area’s Cash-Strapped Transit Provider

Challenges await RTD’s new chief

Agency deals with virus impact, review, underfunded rail projects

Debra Johnson was the deputy CEO in Long Beach and had worked in L.A. and San Francisco. By Jon Murray / The Denver Post

The incoming leader of the Regional Transportation District has overseen huge budgets and dug into daily operational details at other transit agencies. She has negotiated difficult labor contracts, including in a city notorious for union strife.

She also has managed a board of directors rife with complexity and conflicting interests.

Debra Johnson will need all of those skills in Denver when she takes the reins as RTD’s new general manager and CEO. Inside and outside observers say she’s coming aboard at a time when the metro area’s transit provider faces not only tremendous fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, but also budget imbalance, underfunded rail projects, and an outside review that kicked off this month.

That review could recommend drastic changes to the setup of the 15-year-old district, which has struggled to repair framing public trust caused in part by service cuts and fare hikes.

The last time RTD hired a new boss from outside the agency was in 1995, when it tapped Cal Marsella in another time of turmoil. He would become the father of FastTrax, the massive transit expansion approved by voters in 2004.

With its eye Tuesday for Johnson, who spent six years at Long Beach Transit as deputy CEO, the elected board made history by installing a woman in the top job for the first time.

"I think it’s good they went for an outsider. It’s clear the agency really needs some new blood,” said Daril Bragdon, the executive director of RTD 1-100.
THEATER TO STREAM

A world of fringe and more Apples

By Elisabeth Vincentelli

Theater is a physical art form, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that its expanded online presence is here to stay, especially as the web smooths out issues of collaboration and access, both financial and physical. In Australia, for example, the Sydney Fringe Festival is expecting its new virtual event to be more than a stopgap measure. For the festival’s chief executive and director, Kerri Glasscock, the Global Fringe initiative is not so much a replacement for the live festival as “a new project that will hopefully continue beyond the pandemic,” she wrote in an email. “It opens up a doorway for fringers like us to support and present a wider selection of works annually, to push form and function and develop new ways of presenting, and to ensure that our audiences are going to see the best work from around the globe.”

Sydney’s Global Fringe project includes both live-streams (including some from Sweden, thanks to a partnership with the Stockholm Fringe Festival) and shows recorded in Australia, Britain, Israel, New Zealand and the United States. “What is remarkably true is that while all of our physical borders remain closed, our relationships with our international partners and colleagues have been strengthened,” Glasscock said. (Sept. 2-27. Go to sydneyfringe.com for more information. “Pay what you feel.”)

The fringe moves to the (non-live) screen.

Fringe festivals tend to be sprawling affairs, but luckily the virtual world can accommodate a lot of shows. In addition to the recorded productions available on Zoot TV, in lieu of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival offers live and on-demand shows via a virtual portal, OnLive@Edinburgh (+ through Aug. 30 at onliveedinburgh.com. Fees.)

For the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, it is streaming live performances, including Susan Suleiman’s “White Rabbit Red Rabbit,” out of shed spaces set up at Edinburgh’s Traverse Theatre and London’s Soho Theatre, as well as acting performance honors. (Through Sept. 5 at edinburghfringe.com. Live only. Donations start around $5.)

How do you like them apples?

Think of this as the off-Broadway answer to the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s “Incidental Moments of the Day,” the conclu-

PINK PROGRESSION

Keeping the spirit of the Women’s March alive — hats and all

By Ray Mark Rinaldi
Special to The Denver Post

The 2017 Women’s March was the largest single-day protest in American history. More than 3 million people gathered in cities across the country to express anger over the two-plus centuries of second-class citizenship that women have endured.

It was an intersection with big demands — pay equity, safety protections, reproductive rights — but bad timing. After all, the event was met with immediate backlash, with a newly elected President Donald Trump, who had been in office one day, by wasn’t going anywhere for four years, no matter how loud the chants, or how clever the signs, or how pink the signature hate participants wore.

If you go

“Pink Progression: Collaborations” continues through Nov. 6 at the Arvada Center. Tickets are free but attendance is limited to prevent social distancing during the pandemic. Online reservations are advised; info at 720-893-2820 or arvadacentre.org.

TRAVEL

Can’t go to Europe? Take these Colorado trips instead

By Sarah Kato
Special to The Denver Post

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted just about every facet of our lives. Chief among them: our ability to travel, especially internationally. Europe, in particular, does not want American visitors right now (and, honestly, we can’t blame them). This means that if you were planning to take one of Denver International Airport’s handy non-stop flights to destinations like London, Paris or Frankfurt, you’re out of luck for the foreseeable future.

There’s never been a better time to plan a Colorado road trip and check out some of the state’s destinations you’ve been meaning to visit, but just haven’t gotten around to yet. Before you hop in the car, however, be sure to check out your destination’s coronavirus rules, regulations and restrictions (and actually follow them) so that we can all travel safely and responsibly.

Don’t get discouraged by your dashed European travel plans. Instead, set your sights on these Colorado vacation ideas that will make you feel like you’re traveling in Europe.

European fall fестиvals at C Lazy U Ranch

Take an extended tour of Europe’s mountain region via your taste buds with a visit to C Lazy U Ranch for European fall festivals at C Lazy U Ranch.
TRAVEL

C Lazy U Ranch is one of the many luxury resorts in Colorado that offer exclusive experiences. Executive chef Cory Unch created the ranch’s fall menu with European travel in mind, rather than the lack thereof in mind, conducting extensive research about the foods that are popular in northern Italy, Austria, Switzerland, France and Germany.

And this isn’t your typical “chalet” cuisine, either from it. Unch is an accomplished chef who has trained in kitchens at The Little Nell in Aspen and at Ritz-Carlton hotels all over the country, among others.

“People can’t really travel right now,” said 37-year-old Unch, who began leading the ranch’s culinary program in January. “With everything that’s happening, we want to try to bring them that experience through food. Even if you’re been there before, maybe we can make a dish that strikes a note with you, that brings you back to that time and place.”

On the menu, you’ll find dishes using polenta, risotto, osso buco, house-made pasta, sauerkraut dumplings, fondue and more. Unch plans to play up fontina and pecorino cheeses, as well as meats like prosciutto, mortadella and pastrami.

Since all meals are included in your stay at the ranch, you don’t have to get involved about asking for seconds, either. And if you’re the type of person who likes to earn your dinner, the ranch has plenty of activities to help you work up a sweat — horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, fly fishing, tennis, archery, hatchet-throwing, a ropes course, swimming and volleyball, to name a few.

C Lazy U Ranch, 3540 Colorado Highway 243, Aspen, 970-687-5344, cazylazyu.com

German Bauhaus style in Aspen.

While settlers flocked to Aspen in the early 1870s in search of valuable silver buried underground, and even after the silver market collapsed in the early 1890s, many Aspenites still sought a more peaceful and beautiful place. Among them was Walter and Elizabeth Paupley.

In addition to helping Aspen become a world-renowned skiing destination, the Paupleys were responsible for much of Aspen’s early economic and artistic growth. Case in point: In 1940, the Paupleys founded the Aspen Institute, a place where people could discuss big ideas, art, philosophy, human challenges and great writing.

The German-born Austrian designer and architect Herbert Bayer was a key figure in the Aspen Institute’s campaign for the distinctive Bauhaus style, a very specific form of modernism that permeated all corners of European architecture and design in the 1920s and 1930s.

To this day, a visit to the institute, which is also a hoch von the center, is like taking a trip back in time and a new experience. It’s so unique that you’ll feel like you’re in Denver and touched down in another country — no, seriously. There are bold primary colors everywhere, sculpted landscapes reminiscent of earthworks and tons of Bauhaus-style sculptures and art pieces everywhere. It’s funky and awesome.

During your stay, you can take a self-guided tour or call ahead to ask about reserving a socially distanced guided tour for your group.

Aspen Meadows Resort and the Aspen Institute, 445 Meadows Road, Aspen, 970-925-4240, aspenmeadows.com

 maintenant in Estes Park.

If you’ve ever dreamed of doing a hut-to-hut hiking in the Alps or the Dolomites, you’re in luck.

You don’t have to travel to Europe to get a similar experience. In fact, you don’t have to travel far at all.

After hiking extensively in England, France, the Netherlands and elsewhere, David Dufour and wife Robin Nexus fell in love with long-distance trekking.

They realized they could link together several well-known trails in Rocky Mountain National Park to create a long, continuous route. Even better? They discovered interesting lodging options along the way. Thus, they created the Walker Tomato Way, named for the Buxton-bred man who volunteered at the national park and climbed Longs Peak more than 100 times.

You can book a self-guided one-day trip along the Walker Tomato Way through footprints of the World, the Nexus hiking company (they also organize self-guided day trips, an inn-to-inn trip near Winter Park and a hiking excursion to France). The 42-mile trip starts in Estes Park and ends in Allenspark, with lodging along the way. You’ll hike 10 to 15 miles each day, though the total number of miles you spend on the trip varies based on the season and your preferences. Your luggage is transferred from inn to inn so all you really need to bring is a backpack.

The trip is self-guided, or you can hire a private guide for some or all of the days.

“It’s astounding,” said Phoebe Nexus. “It’s very fun to be tried, walking down the trail and looking for that lodge. And when you walk through the door, unloved

The Apennine mountains is so unique that you’ll feel like you’re in Colorado and touched down in another country. Provided by the Aspen Institute.}


Also like Switzerland (and other cold-weather European destinations). Vail is home to some truly incredible winter climbing.

Even if you’ve never climbed before, you can still take advantage of the Vail Ice Park, a free, public park with more than 100 ice and mixed climbs.

There’s even a special kid’s wall. You can rent your ice climbing gear from many outfitters in town and even hire an experienced guide to show you the ropes (pun intended). Weather-dependent, the park is open to climb from early in mid-December this year.

The nonprofit park is funded completely by donations, so consider chipping in a few bucks or becoming an ice park member so that the Colorado Ice Climb can continue to exist and thrive from the future.

The similarity to Switzerland doesn’t stop with climbing, either. Afternoons, you can ski the whole slopes in the Boreas Basin, which is reminiscent of one of the many Swiss outdoor thermal/baths and spas.

Vail Ice Park, 200 Co Road 681, Vail, 970-348-4258, vailicepark.com

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Puzzle Answer

Trunk made from “ROOTS? 2-D TORSO”

Today’s answer: McGregor