

## **Class access troubles emerge as storm recovery continues**

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Many think that hurricanes are predictable. Enough so that if one is heading their way, they think they can easily evacuate and avoid it, but this isn't always the case.

Earlier this month, Hurricane Sally, a category 2 hurricane, formed within the Straits of Florida and made a beeline for the Louisiana Delta. This track, to many, appeared stable, on track to hit somewhere between Mobile and New Orleans. However, in the waning hours before landfall, the hurricane stopped dead in its tracks. Then, slowly shifted towards the Florida coast, rather than its Mississippi counterparts.

"I did nothing to prepare for the storm, I was actually in Mobile on Sunday when I realized it had shift, so I [evacuated to] Pensacola, only to realize a day later we would be hit here," Pensacola State (PSC) alumni Trey Hall said. Continuing to say, "I don't think anyone in Pensacola was ready for what happened."

Not only was the prelude to this tempest offbeat, recovery too appears to be against the norm as the COVID-19 pandemic rages on. With most classes now being only online, many students have found it difficult to return after losing the internet and power for days on end.

"It was difficult for me to picture how the rest of the school year was going to work after having lost two weeks of school," PSC student Amelia O'Malley said.

During those two weeks, O'Malley, who lives in Navarre, lost access to the internet for four days, furtherly challenging the situation. Hall, who stayed at his parent's house in Pensacola during the storm, similarly lost power until the Sunday after the storm and internet until the following Wednesday.

They were certainly not alone; over 400,000 homes across the region have found themselves without power in the wreckage of the storm. On top of that, large-scale damage to the Pensacola Bay Bridge has made getting to campus an ordeal for those on the Fairpoint Peninsula. All of it, simply making accessing classes more and more difficult.

Nevertheless, despite the unexpected squall and the damage thereof, the semester seems to be progressing as best as something in 2020 can progress. Classes have returned this past Monday, though many with majorly amended schedules. O'Malley has once again begun her classes and Hall has returned to his work in Pensacola.

