

Hurricane Dorian

Category 5 storm wreaks havoc on Bahamas

By Chloe McGee
Arts & Life Editor

After nearly two days over the Bahamas, Hurricane Dorian is now making its way up the East Coast of the United States, threatening the Carolinas. Dorian—one of the most powerful Atlantic storms on record—stalled over the northern Bahamas bringing blinding rain, rising waters and 185 mph winds to isolated areas of the islands just 50 miles from Florida’s coast, according to CNN.

Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said the deaths were confirmed at the northeastern Abaco Islands, which “bore the brunt of the storm,” Minnis said.

According to the International Red Cross, some 13,000 houses are feared to be greatly damaged or destroyed.

“Abaco got the worst of the storm,” said Madison McGee, a native of the Bahamas and cousin to Clarion reporter Chloe McGee. “Many of the roofs have been ravaged and water levels are over 20 feet high in some areas,” she said.

Compared to the mass evacuations taking place on our Eastern border, McGee says that her island is not as fortunate and, instead, must take the necessary precautions to ensure their safety and minimize structural damage.

“We put up shutters to cover our windows and bring in the boats from the harbor to be either put on land or anchored down in the mangroves,” said McGee.

Bethany Albury, Madison McGee’s older sister, believes that the United States’ response to Hurricane Dorian is “necessary” because of its highly populated, flood-susceptible coastal cities.

“It worries me how so many in the United States fail to take these storms seriously when they are told to prepare,” said Albury. “It’s better to be safe than sorry!”

Albury and McGee live off the northern tip of Eleuthera on an island called Spanish Wells, one of the Bahamas’ smaller islands and home to a mere 1,500 people.

Although Albury and McGee have not yet experienced the destruction of a major hurricane first-hand, they have heard stories of Hurricane Andrew when it hit and completely devastated Spanish Wells in 1992.

“When the first rescue planes flew over [Spanish Wells] after Hurricane Andrew passed, there was said to be no sign of life on the island,” Albury said.

Albury says that she has heard enough to know that they should be “well and even over prepared” for when a hurricane is expected to hit, and that Dorian has surely confirmed this to be true because of its erratic nature.

“After the storm passes, there is a moment when you first walk outside and see the destruction,” said Albury. “You are just grateful

that you weren’t harmed and have sustained manageable damage.”

Fortunately, although unpredictable, Hurricane Dorian was well monitored, giving the residents of Spanish Wells the time needed to make the proper accommodations.

“We were spared from a direct hit this time thankfully, but it is agonizing knowing that your family is in such great distress on nearby islands,” said Albury. “There’s nothing we can do except keep praying.”

Albury and McGee are thankful for the relief efforts being made to salvage what is left of the severely damaged islands and cannot thank the United States enough for its willingness to lend a helping hand to its neighboring country.



Courtesy of Madison McGee

Madison McGee’s backyard on Spanish Wells floods after Hurricane Dorian.



Courtesy of Madison McGee

Fish can be seen swimming in flood waters through window in Abaco.