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INFORMATION RELEASE

TROPICAL STORMS BONNIE

August 11, 2004 5:30 pm

Tropical Storm Bonnie:

At 4PM CDT, the center of Tropical Storm Bonnie was located near latitude 26.7 North and 89.3 Longitude west or about 165 miles south of the mouth of the Mississippi River. This is also about 340 miles southwest of Apalachicola, Florida. Bonnie is moving toward the northeast near 12 mph. This general motion with a gradual increase in forward speed is forecast to continue for the next 24 hours. On this forecast track Bonnie is expected to make landfall along the Central Panhandle of Florida Thursday morning. Maximum sustained winds are near 65 mph with higher gusts. Additional strengthening is possible over the next 24 hours and Bonnie could become a Hurricane later tonight or Thursday morning.

There has been no significant change in the forecast for Tropical Storm Bonnie, with regard to anticipated impact on Chatham County. Accordingly the information that follows is a repeat of our 11:30 release.

Windy and rainy conditions possible late Thursday and Thursday night as the remnants of Tropical Storm Bonnie move rapidly across the region. Tropical storm Bonnie is located over the central Gulf of Mexico. The latest forecast from the National Hurricane Center indicates Bonnie could make landfall along the Florida panhandle late Thursday morning as a strong Tropical Storm.

Although Bonnie will weaken after landfall, breezy and perhaps even windy conditions may affect southeast Georgia late Thursday afternoon and Thursday night. Tropical storm force wind gusts of 35 to 40 mph may occur over interior southeast Georgia. Sustained tropical storm force winds are not expected at this time.

Due to the rapid movement of the storm, widespread flooding is not expected, however heavy rain and localized flooding is a possibility. Isolated tornadoes are also possible.

Residents across southern South Carolina and southeast Georgia are encouraged to remain alert to the latest forecasts and statements on Bonnie. This can be done through NOAA weather radio, TV or your local news source. Information can also be obtained on the internet at wchs.csc.noaa.gov.