

THE STORY OF
**TexAnna
TADDpole**



TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN

EACH YEAR, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. **WHY?** The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN**. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

FOLLOW THESE SAFETY RULES:

- **MONITOR** the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, **GET TO HIGHER GROUND**. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- **AVOID AREAS ALREADY FLOODED**, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around Don't Drown
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. **NEVER** drive through flooded roadways. **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN** If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- **BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS AT NIGHT** when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

FLASH FLOODS

Except for heat related fatalities, more deaths occur from flooding than any other hazard. **WHY?** Most people fail to realize the power of water. For example, six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet.

While the number of fatalities can vary dramatically with weather conditions from year to year, the national 30-year average for flood deaths is 127. That compares with a 30-year average of 73 deaths for lightning, 65 for tornadoes and 16 for hurricanes.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DATA ALSO SHOWS:

- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related,
- The majority of victims are males, and
- Flood deaths affect all age groups.

MOST FLASH FLOODS ARE CAUSED BY SLOW-MOVING THUNDERSTORMS, that move repeatedly over the same area or heavy rains from tropical storms and hurricanes. These floods can develop within minutes or hours depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the topography, soil conditions and ground cover.

FLASH FLOODS CAN ROLL BOULDERS, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides.

Occasionally, **FLOATING DEBRIS OR ICE CAN ACCUMULATE** at a natural or man-made obstruction and restrict the flow of water. Water held back by the ice jam or debris dam can cause flooding upstream. Subsequent flash flooding can occur downstream if the obstruction should suddenly release.

More information can be obtained at:

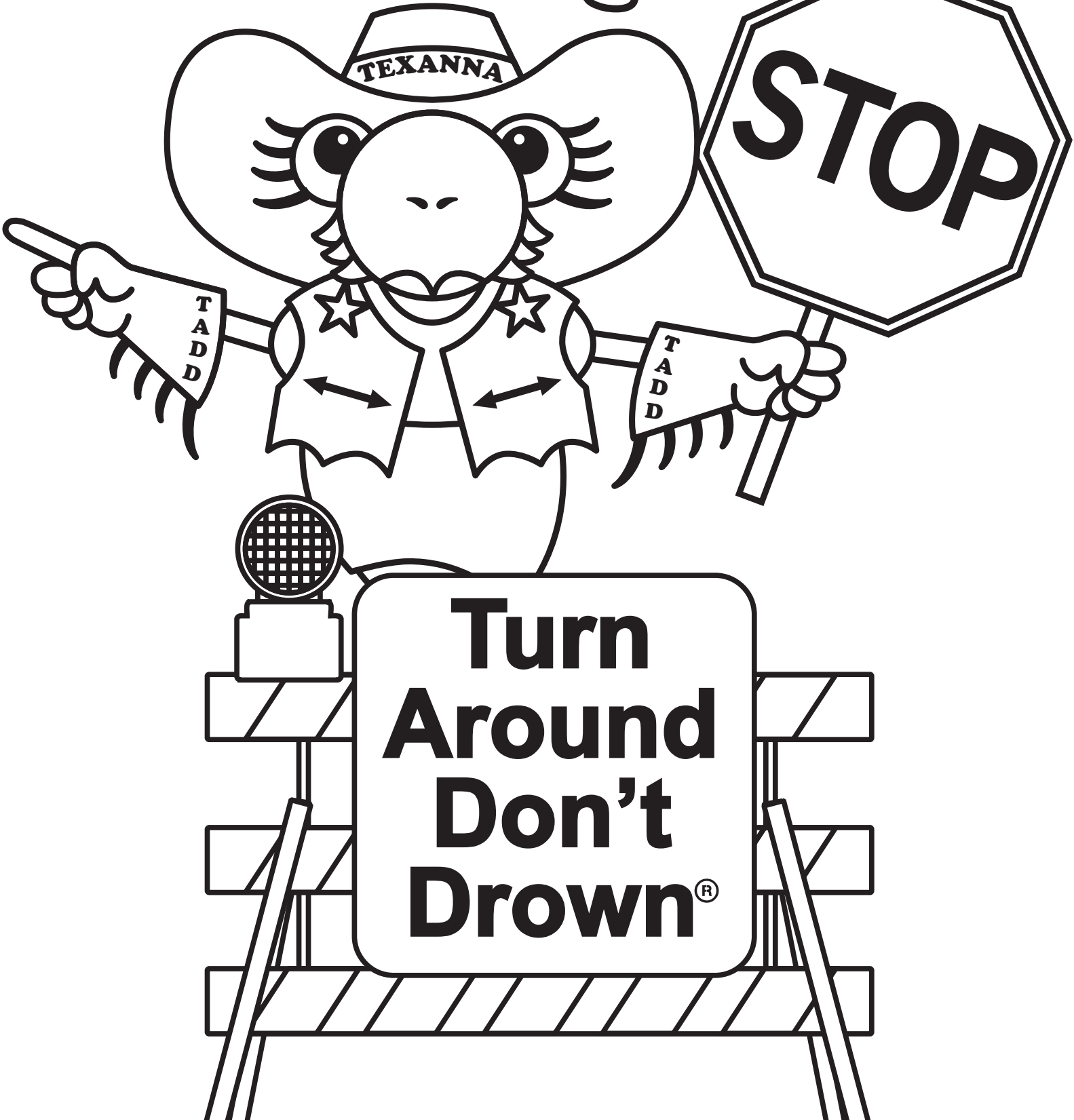
www.srh.noaa.gov/images/fwd/pdf/floodsandfloods.pdf

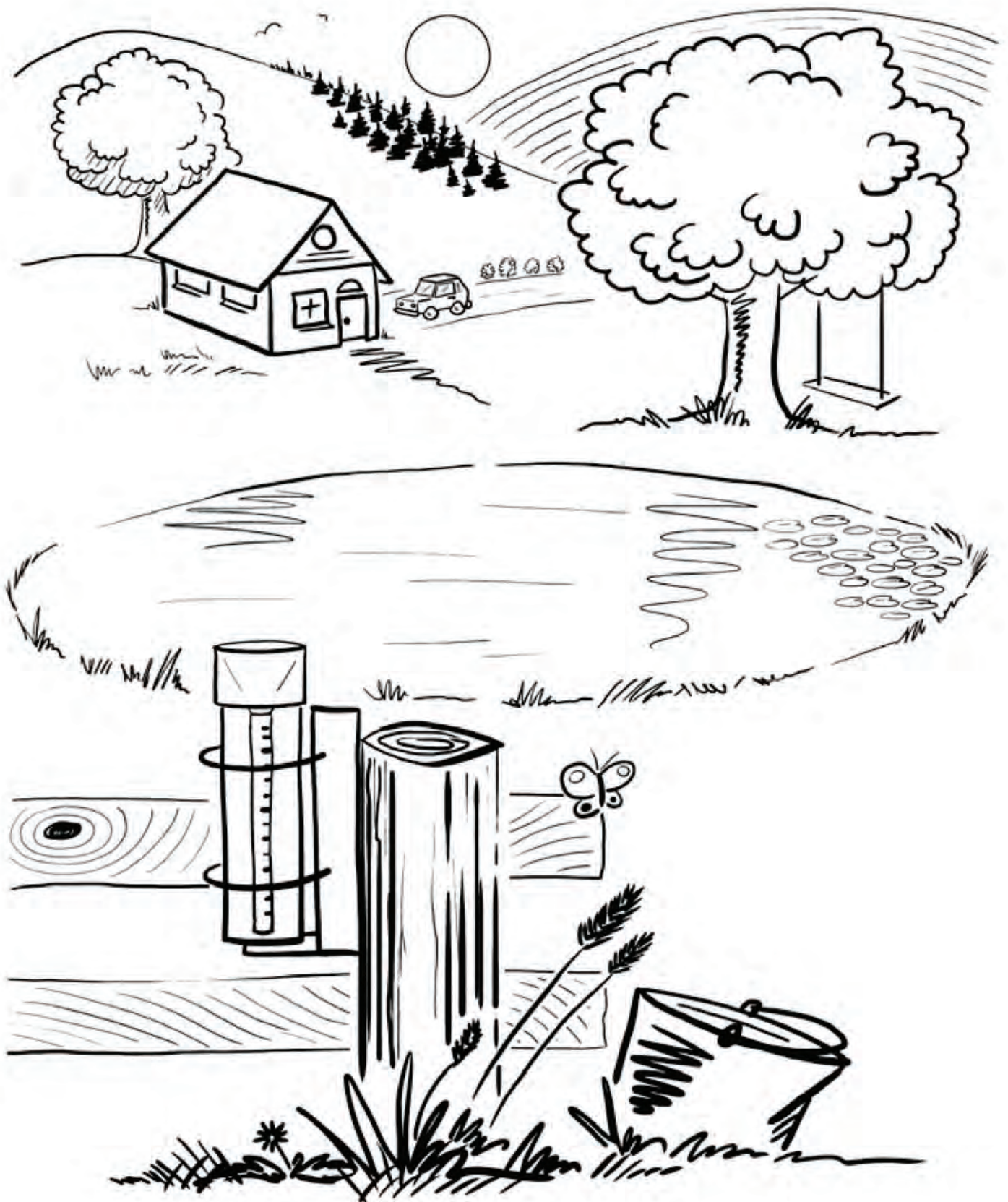
www.srh.weather.gov/srh/tadd/

www.nws.noaa.gov/os/brochures/FloodsTheAwesomePower_NSC.pdf

THE STORY OF

TexAnna TADDpole

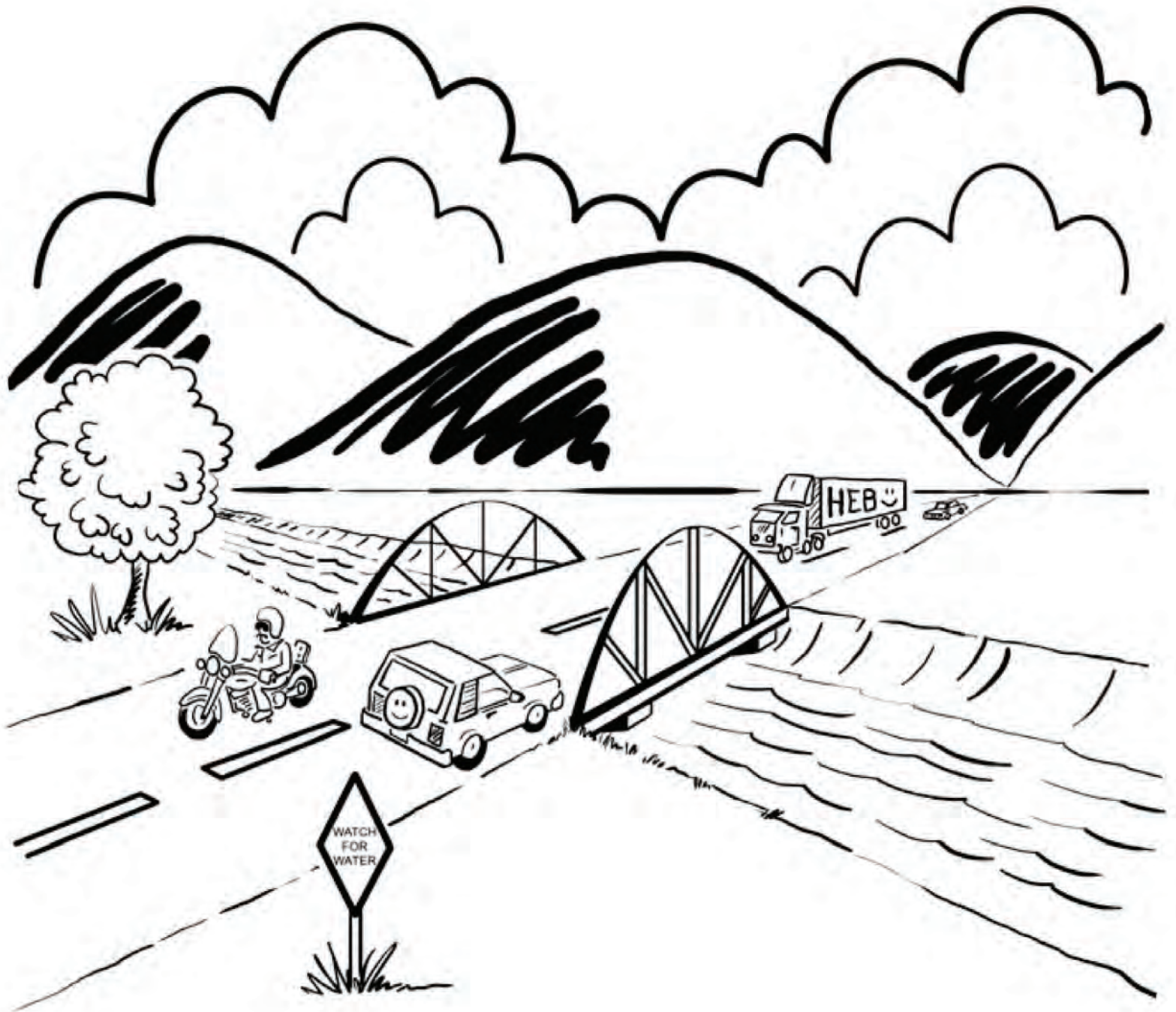




One perfect Spring day, TexAnna TADDpole began life in a quiet little pond in the Texas Hill Country. TexAnna was among hundreds of tiny tadpoles hatched that day. Life was good for TexAnna and the other little tadpoles as they swam and played in the cool, peaceful waters.



When the weather was warm and pleasant, the neighborhood children would come down to the pond and play. A cute, little red-headed boy named David loved catching tadpoles and small frogs. One time, he even caught TexAnna! But David was kind-hearted and always returned the tadpoles and frogs back to the safety of the pond.



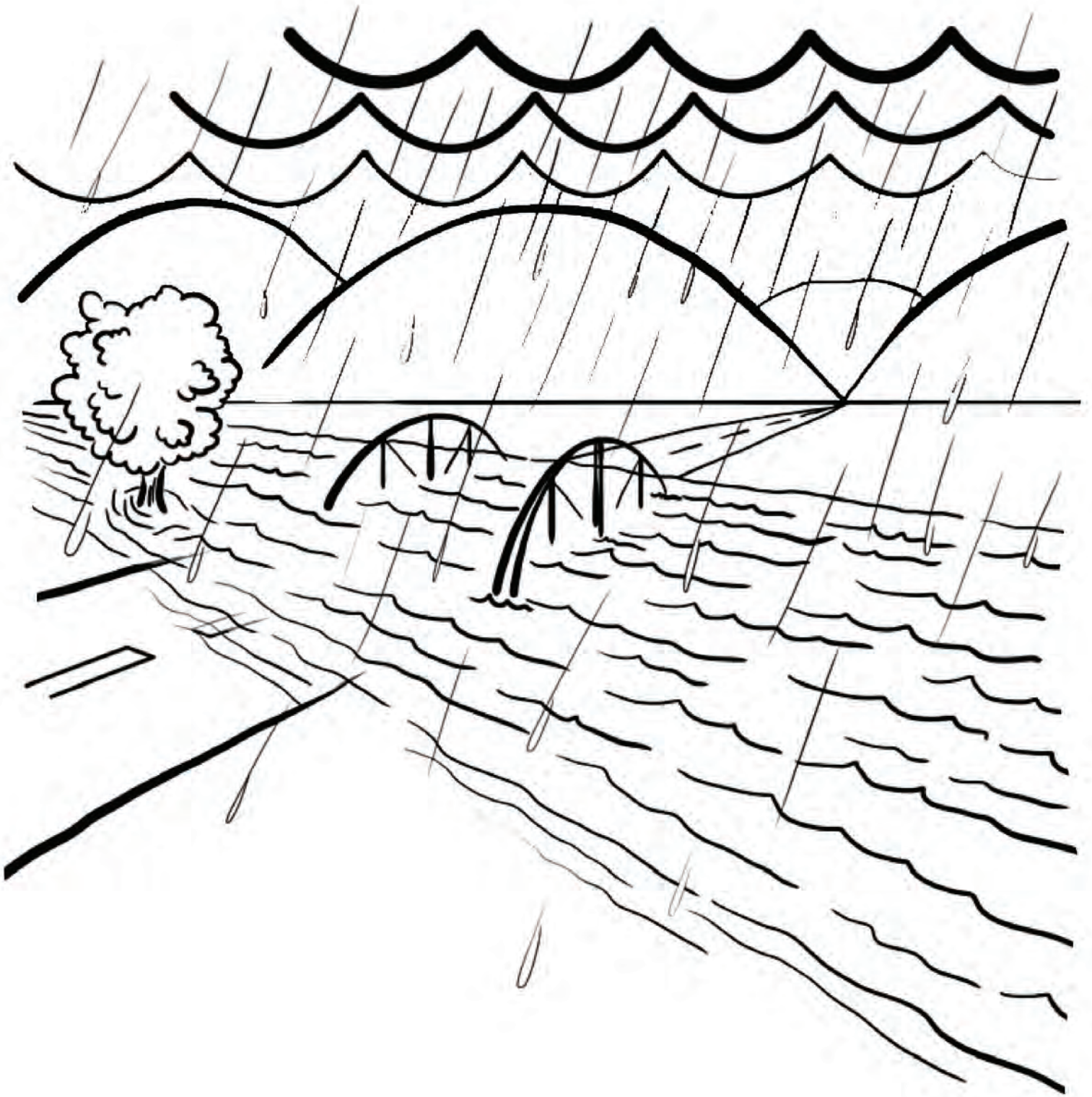
Up from the pond, a bridge crossed a nearby creek. Vehicles of all kinds used this bridge every day. Hardly any thought was given to potential dangers that could affect the bridge, the creek or the nearby pond. After all, spring was a time to play outdoors and have fun!



One day, TexAnna was swimming and playing. All of a sudden she noticed strange flashes of light coming from the sky! She had never seen anything like it. TexAnna began to worry. A large thunderstorm was forming overhead. The sky grew dark. Thunder roared! Dangerous lightning bolts struck the ground nearby.



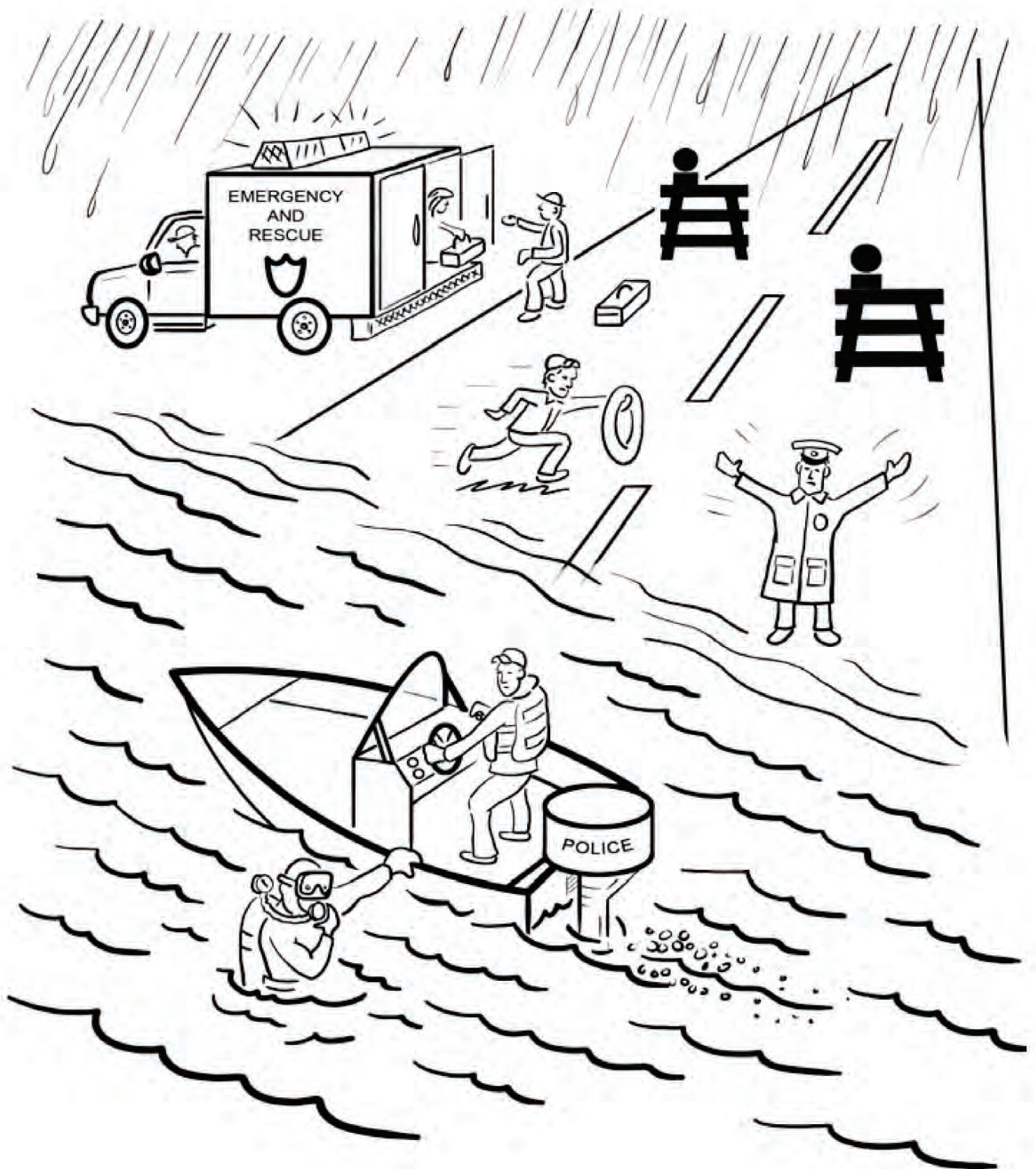
Rain began to fall and turned into extremely heavy downpours as the thunderstorm grew larger. TexAnna and others in the pond were scared. They swam to the bottom of the pond to hide beneath the rocks. The usually calm, clear pond water became murky as strong currents of water began pushing past TexAnna and her friends.



TexAnna did not know what was happening as she struggled to cling to a rock. The rain was coming down hard and fast. The nearby creek was rapidly becoming a raging river! The bridge that crossed the creek was disappearing beneath the rushing, flash flood waters.



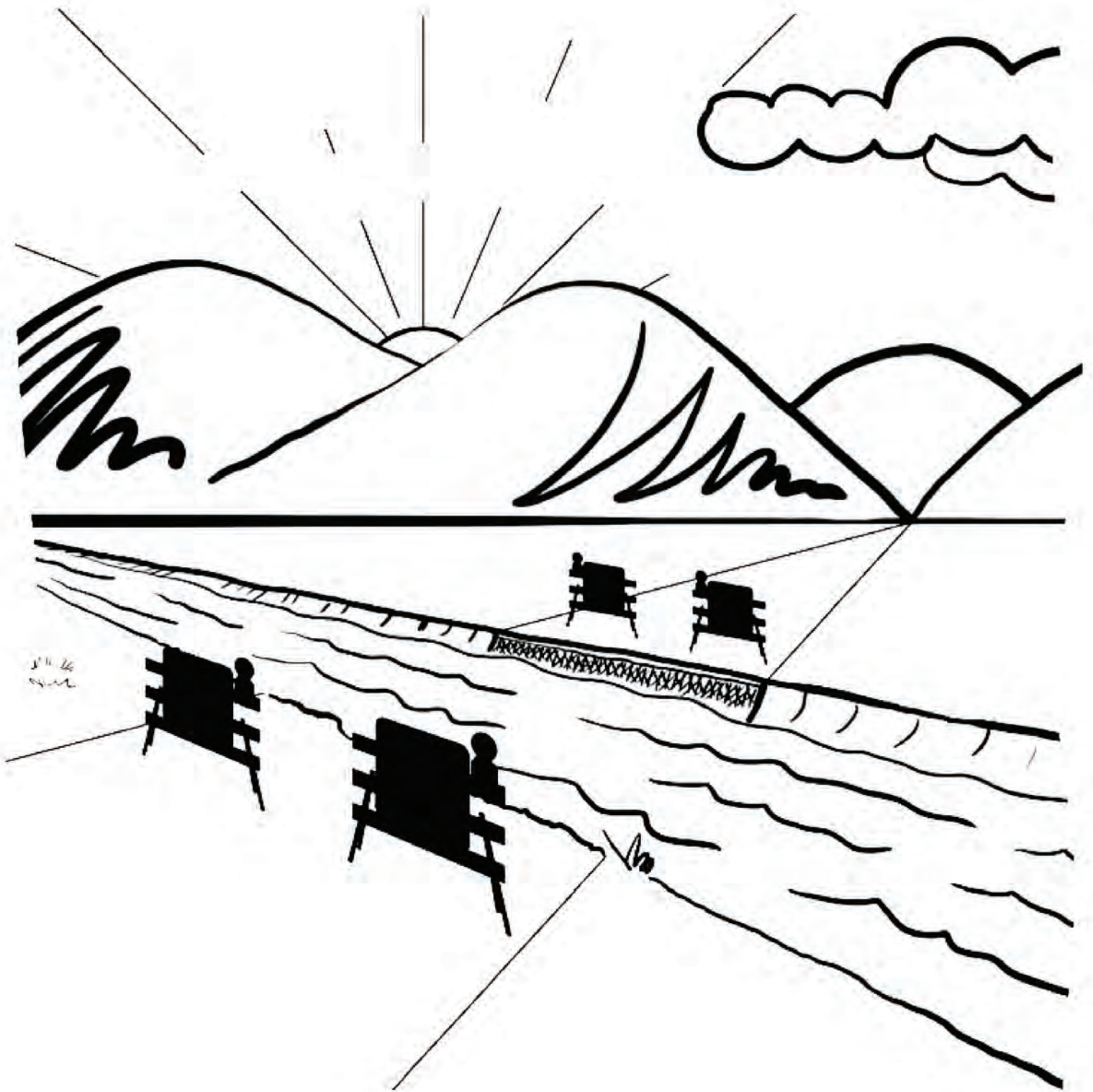
Suddenly, a tremendous splash occurred overhead. TexAnna saw two huge, bright eyes staring at her. They weren't human eyes though, they were the headlights of a car! TexAnna caught a glimpse of David in the submerged car. He was motionless. His mother was yelling for help. The car, along with David and his mom, sank toward the bottom of the river bed!



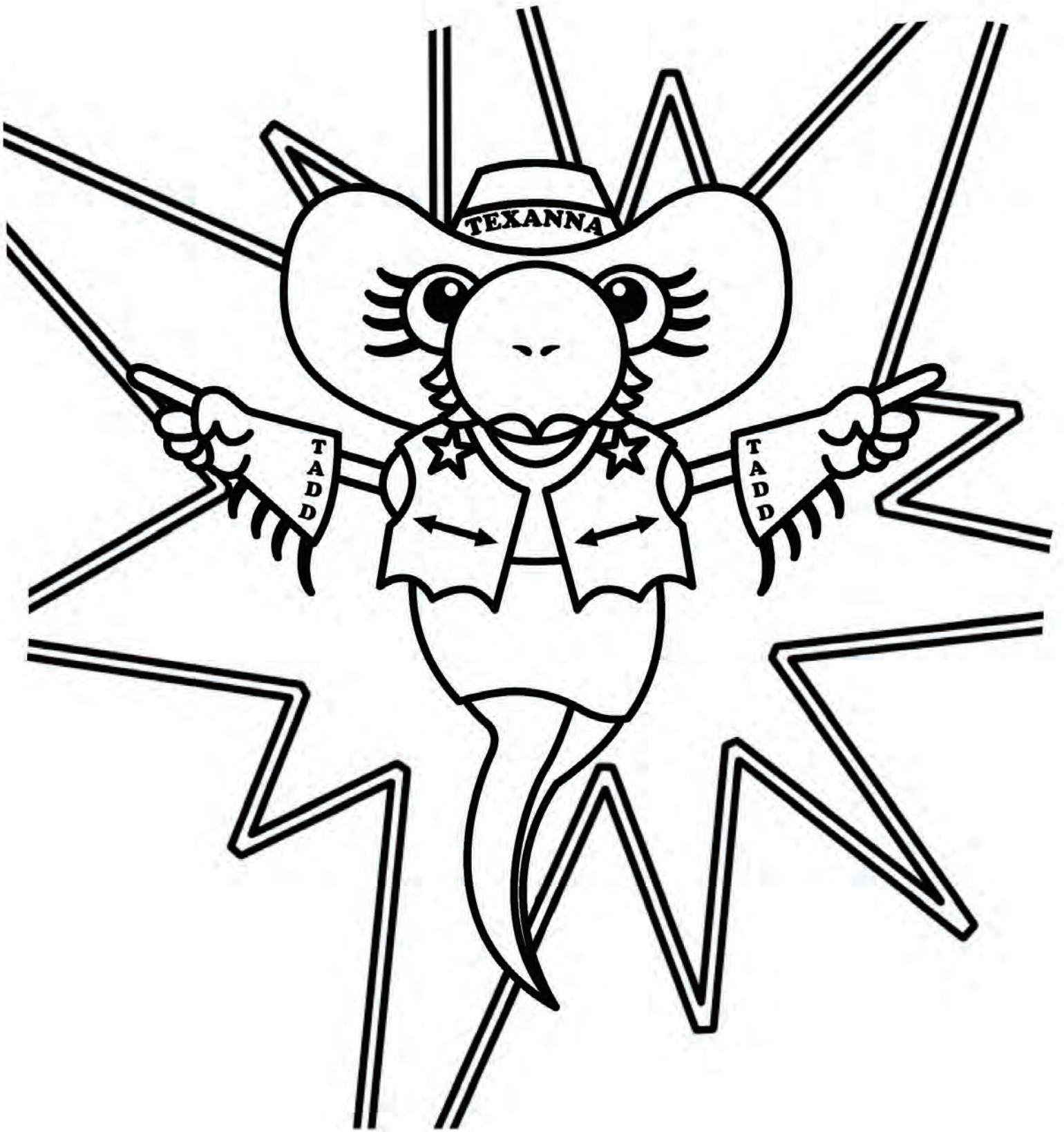
A lot of commotion began occurring out on the bank of the river. Men and women started to search the flooded river for David and his Mom. At one point, a diver entered the water to see if he could find them. TexAnna was experiencing her first flash flood!



After hours of searching, the rescue teams became exhausted and tired. Hope in finding David and his mom was not lost, but their search efforts would have to end for now.



Hours after the storm began, the rain ended and the skies cleared. The rough water became calm and things returned to normal around the pond and the river. The floodwaters subsided as the once raging river returned to a calm flowing creek. However, the bridge was gone and vehicles could not cross from one side to the other.



TexAnna wondered what had happened to David and his mom. She questioned what went wrong. Could this be prevented from ever happening to anyone again? At that moment, TexAnna changed forever. She became filled with a glorious energy and a wonderful purpose in life. TexAnna's mission would be to tell kids and parents everywhere about the dangers of flash floods. TexAnna would always remind people to "Turn Around, Don't Drown!"

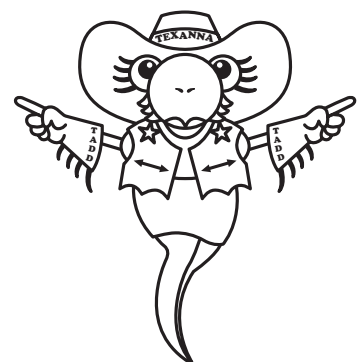
TexAnna's Word Find

P L S V L L A F N I A R L V A
K L E R Y P R E V I R A T Z N
X K E M I A N Y U A I H K G N
K K Q H E C W L S T P S D C A
M R O T S R E D N U H T D E X
E X E G C S G E A N K R M D E
K L U S A Z R E G O O L R O T
F F I F C R K N N W R I D O P
G D E B O U I X N C N G A L J
N T W T O N E I L H Y H N F S
Y P M R R M N I P G J T G H M
V X V A F G O K Z B F N E S P
A L W V W E A T H E R I R A T
X D D W S O N C U Z B N I L U
B A R R I C A D E A U G D F U

AUTOMOBILE
DROWNING
HELP
RESCUE
SAFETY
TORRENTIAL

BARRICADE
EMERGENCY
LIGHTNING
RIVER
TEXANNA
WARNING

DANGER
FLASHFLOOD
RAINFALL
ROADWAY
THUNDERSTORM
WEATHER



TexAnna TADDpole's

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inches of flowing water can cause a vehicle to float and most often wash off the flooded road into very swift water with deadly results. If your vehicle is caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

More flash floods occur in Central Texas than in any other region of the country. Because of the likelihood of heavy rain events and the hilly topography, this area of Texas is most often referred to as

“Flash Flood Alley”

During a flash flood event, roads, bridges and low water crossings will be covered by very fast moving floodwater. Often times, the bridge or road bed is

washed out

creating extremely dangerous conditions.

WARNING!

Flash Floods occur in many parts of Texas, most often after a very heavy rain event. These deadly floods are more common during the spring and fall months when the climate is changing, but floods can and do occur in every month of the year.

Motorists should be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

Wet Black Pavement

and flowing water often look the same at night, especially when it is raining and vision is impaired.

When possible, communities will attempt to barricade or block flooded roads or bridges, but again, it is impossible to barricade all flooded roads and bridges. It has been documented that some motorists will drive around barricades and into flooded roads only to find themselves and others fighting for their life in

swift flowing flood waters

In the U.S., slightly more than 50% of the flash flood deaths are caused by drivers trying to cross flooded low water crossings or entering flooded roads. In Texas, the percentage of flash flood deaths related to vehicles is more than

60%

Motorists are not making good choices when faced with a flooded road or bridge.

Many cities and counties have made attempts to mark low water crossings and roads and bridges at risk of flooding with signs and streamside flood gages. Some even have

blinking lights

activated when the road or bridge is flooded. But there are so many creeks and streams crossing roads in Texas that it is impossible to mark or identify all at risk roads and bridges.

The Barricade Law

In Texas, if a motorist moves a barricade or drives around a barricade that is blocking a flooded road or bridge, that motorist can be fined or even given jail time by local law enforcement. If that motorist continues into the flooded road and finds him/herself in need of rescue, that motorist can be billed for the cost of their rescue.

Flood Facts & Safety Tips

1 NEVER drive through flooded roadways or attempt to cross a low water crossing or bridge when water is flowing over the pavement. Always remember to "Turn Around Don't Drown", it may save your life and the life of those most precious to you.

2 Be very cautious when walking or playing near a flooded stream. Stream banks can be very muddy and slippery and could cave in causing you to fall into rapidly flowing water. Especially watch the smaller kids and pets too!

3 Severe Thunderstorms often produce heavy rain and flash flooding, but there are other dangers associated with these storms. Hail and strong winds often occur during a severe thunderstorm and of course there is the constant flashing of lightning and loud rolling thunder. And there is also a chance that a tornado may form from these storms. If you are caught outside, you need to take shelter immediately. Remember Leo the Lion when he says "When Thunder Roars - Go Indoors"

4

When spring arrives, adults and kids turn to the outdoors for fun and recreation. When camping, never park your travel trailer or place your tent too close to a flowing creek or stream. Always be weather-wise when outdoors and if you notice water starting to rise, seek higher ground immediately.

5 Make sure your family has an evacuation plan and a family emergency kit which includes food, water, clothing, medications, important papers and others items necessary for survival. Have a communication plan so if your family is separated during a disaster, you will be able to contact each other and reconnect in a safe place.

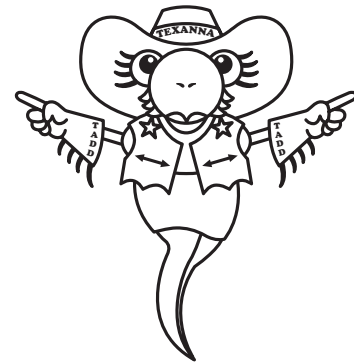
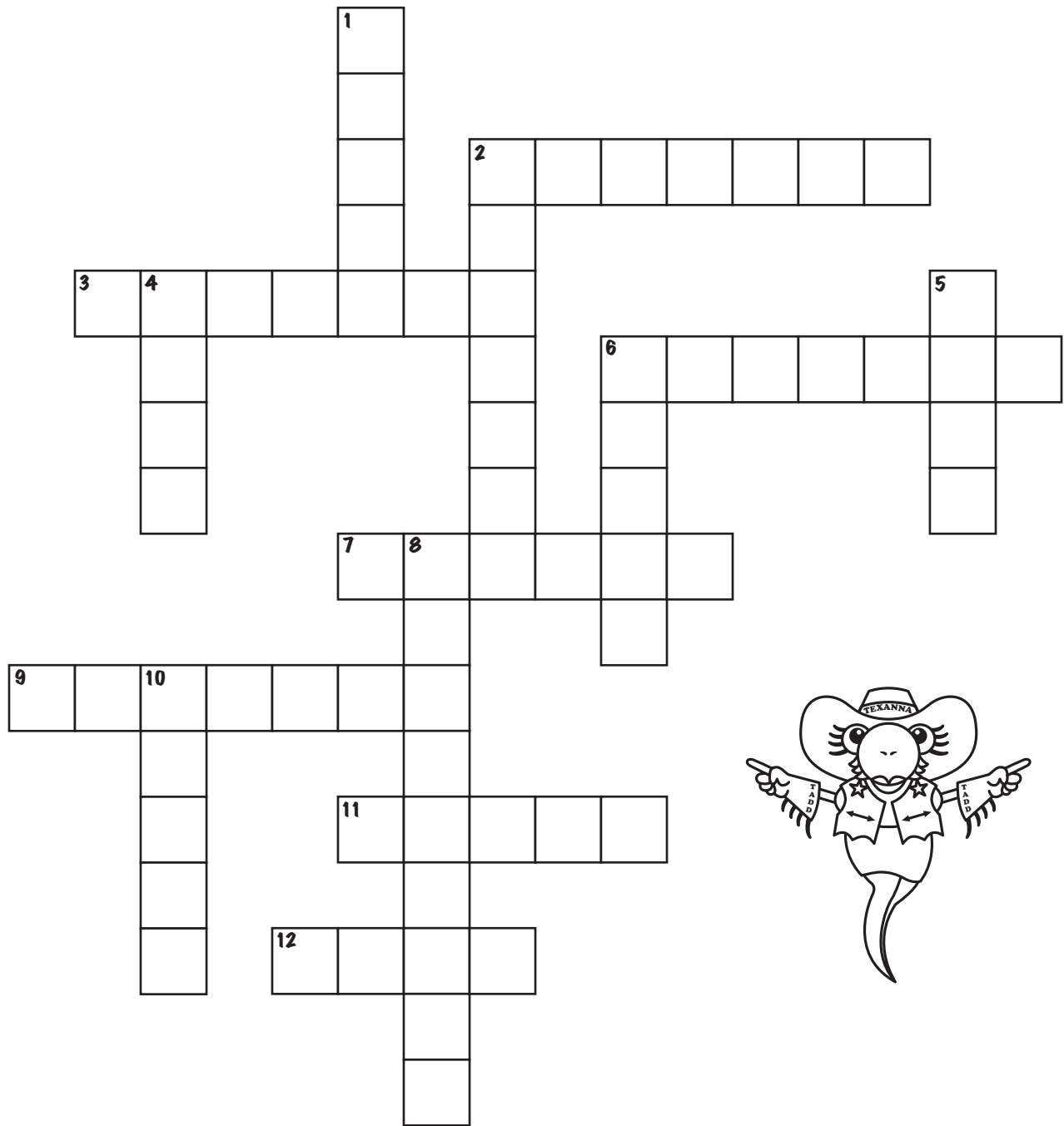
6 September is the peak of hurricane season in Texas. If a storm approaches Texas, monitor weather conditions and be prepared to evacuate if ordered to do so. Remember, when these big storms hit, their effects are far reaching. Inland areas away from the coast can expect high damaging winds, tornadoes, heavy rain and flooding.

7 Buy and use a NOAA All Hazards Radio in your home. Also consider a portable battery powered NOAA radio for use in your vehicle during road trips and family outings. NOAA radio will provide you with current weather updates, flood watches and warnings and much more!

8 Never swim, tube or boat in a flooded stream. Swift currents can quickly pull you under and fast moving debris such as uprooted trees in the water can strike you and make it impossible for you to reach the stream bank.

9 Check FEMA floodplain maps to see if your home is located in a designated floodplain. Remember, your home can be flooded even if you do not live within a mapped floodplain.

10 Purchase flood insurance on your home and contents to protect your investment against flood loss. More than 35% of the claims paid under the NFIP are for losses outside the designated floodplain.



TexAnna's Crossword

DOWN

1. Too much rain causes a _____.
2. Destructive funnel shaped cloud _____.
4. Ice stones from a storm cloud.
5. 911 is used to call for _____.
6. When your hat blows off, it's _____.
8. Bolts of electricity.
10. A raging _____.

ACROSS

2. _____ TADDPole.
3. When _____ roars, go indoors.
6. To help decide what to wear, you first check the _____ outside.
7. Puffy white _____ in the sky.
9. A message about danger is _____.
11. Thunder _____.
12. Water from clouds is called _____.

HEY KIDS!

I need your help monitoring the rainfall in your area. To become an official TexAnna Weather Watcher just email or mail a request for a free rain gauge and instructional packet to:

tfma@verizon.net

or

Texas Floodplain Management Association

TexAnna Weather Watcher

P.O. Box 90367

Austin, Texas 78709-0367



Get more information at:
texasflashflood.org or tfma.org



texasflashflood.org

Partners In Promoting Flood Safety Awareness



nws.noaa.gov



tfma.org