

ATTACKS from page 1A

The crow incursions are a yearly occurrence in Old Town, transpiring in the months of May or June, the nesting season for the birds.

“Crows are territorial and they’re particularly protective when their young leave the nest,” Miller said. “If they believe that any kind of threat is near — cats, dogs or people — they will attack.”

He explained that the main reason for a crow attack is that “crows invest a lot of time and energy into their young,” spending several weeks building nests, up to 20 days incubating eggs and another 30 days feeding their young.

“Crows have very human like personalities and just like us, they protect their young,” he said. “They’re just being good parents.”

Warning signs of potential assaults have been posted in relevant Old Town areas for the past two years.

Aggressive crow behavior is a worldwide phenomenon. An entire Canadian website is devoted to tracking crow assaults in Vancouver. The site shows a map of the city bathed in a sea of red crow shaped icons that gets pinned to the map with every reported attack.

Some residents in Florence have asked why the city does not move the nests to protect the tourist areas, with some stating that the city should be held accountable for such attacks.

However, it is illegal to harm a crow or destroy an active nest, per the federal Migratory Bird Act of 1918. Some municipalities have attempted to deter attacks by destroying nests during winter times, but crows tend to rebuild nests each year, rarely returning to their previous roost.

The idea of crows dive bombing unsuspecting pedestrians is generally met with jokes involving Alfred Hitchcock movies or bands of plucky local theater kids. But for some, the pounces can be mortifying.

“While most people laugh when they first hear of a crow attack, as someone who has had a family member attacked and bloodied a couple of years ago, it is not a laughing matter,” Miller said.

Generally, the birds aim for the head, creating small scratches on the skull. Because of the large amounts of blood vessels hidden just under the skin of the head, even the smallest gash can create a gush of excessive bleeding.

“Being outdoors and hear-

ing crows ‘talking’ usually isn’t a problem, but when the cawing is accompanied with a bird dive bombing you, it can be terrifying,” Miller said. “The attacks generally are from behind and without warning. They sometimes will smack the person on the back of the head and if your hair is long, they can get stuck in the hair and you can imagine how traumatic that is, both for you and the bird.”

If a person does face a crow onslaught, they shouldn’t panic. Fighting back will only make the bird more fearful, and lengthen the time of the attack.

“Simply turn around and walk away,” Miller said. “You shouldn’t flap your arms at them. Just keep moving and move away from them.”

While the crow offensive can leave a lasting impression, there have been no reported deaths linked directly to crows. According to a June 2016 article in Scientific American, death by birds is extremely rare. In fact, the only birds known to cause human deaths are cassowaries, ostriches and a chicken who stabbed a man in California with a knife at an illegal cockfight.

Wikipedia does add one more to the mix, attributing to the death of a fisherman by two swans who teamed up and overturned his boat.

Some fear that a crow attack can lead to the possibility of disease transmission, like West Nile Virus, which crows are extremely susceptible to. In fact, West Nile outbreaks in recent years have decimated some populations of American Crows.

However, the crows do not transmit West Nile, or any other diseases, to humans during an attack. Even if one were to literally “eat crow,” transmission is still rare, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. There is no evidence of human infections by consuming properly cooked birds, though there have been rare cases of laboratory workers contracting West Nile through accidental exposure to infected tissues and blood.

While death by a “murder” of crows may be unheard of, crow behavior can be particularly unnerving. They are exceptionally intelligent birds with the uncanny ability to recognize faces.

“If you anger a bird, it will hold a grudge against you,” Miller said.

This behavior was described in a 2008 New York Times article about an experiment at the University of Washington. In the experiment, two humans were fitted with two types of rubber



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

masks, one slightly mean looking, and another one that would be considered neutral. The person with the “mean” mask trapped and banded seven crows for tracking purposes.

After the crows were released to their usual home, the university campus, researchers had multiple people walk around in the two different types of masks. The results were “quite spectacular,”

with their flock the dangers of the “mean” mask, and groups of birds joined to berate the one-time “trapper.”

“We have heard that when one crow gets upset with you, the other crows watch what is going on, and they will recognize you too. It can spread through their network rapidly,” Miller said.

If a person is assaulted by a crow in Old Town, it’s possible

Historic Old Town Florence now sports several “Nesting Crows — Beware!” signs to minimize danger to people and pets walking down Bay, Laurel and First streets. Nesting lasts for several weeks.

the NY Times reported, with crows persistently screaming and attacking those wearing the “mean” mask. Those with the “neutral” mask escaped the harassment.

And it wasn’t just the crows that had been tagged that were exhibiting the aggressive behavior. The crows had communicated

that they may be targeted again by the protective family. To prevent further attacks, Miller suggests avoiding the area all together.

“Change your [walking] route. If you have been marked as a target, it is best to change your route to avoid the birds and their nesting areas.”

The route change is only needed during the fledgling period. Once the little ones leave the nest, crows go back to avoiding humans.

For those who haven’t yet been blitzed by the birds, Miller gave a list of precautions.

“Wearing a hat or using an umbrella can fend off some swoops, but people should avoid areas with tall thick trees, where nests are likely to be hidden, or staying clear of trouble spots like those that we have signed in Old Town,” he said.

To discourage crows from continuing to nest in Old Town, Miller asks residents and tourists alike to help keep the city clean.

“Crows are scavengers and thrive on human garbage,” he said. “Fewer open garbage cans, fewer people intentionally feeding them and fewer food waste items left on outside tables means fewer crows.”

While crow behavior may seem unnerving during these four weeks, generally the birds leave humans alone the other 48 weeks of the year.

“Regardless of what people think, crows are not evil and are just trying to live their lives and feed their families, just like the rest of us,” Miller said. “We try to encourage people to enjoy the crows (but please do not feed them), as well as other birds, and to appreciate them for the fascinating and highly intelligent creatures that they are. When the nesting season ends, crows move to communal roosts and are much less likely to attack.”

First Baptist Church Vacation Bible School

Ages 5 years to 6th grade

June 25-29 ~ 9-Noon

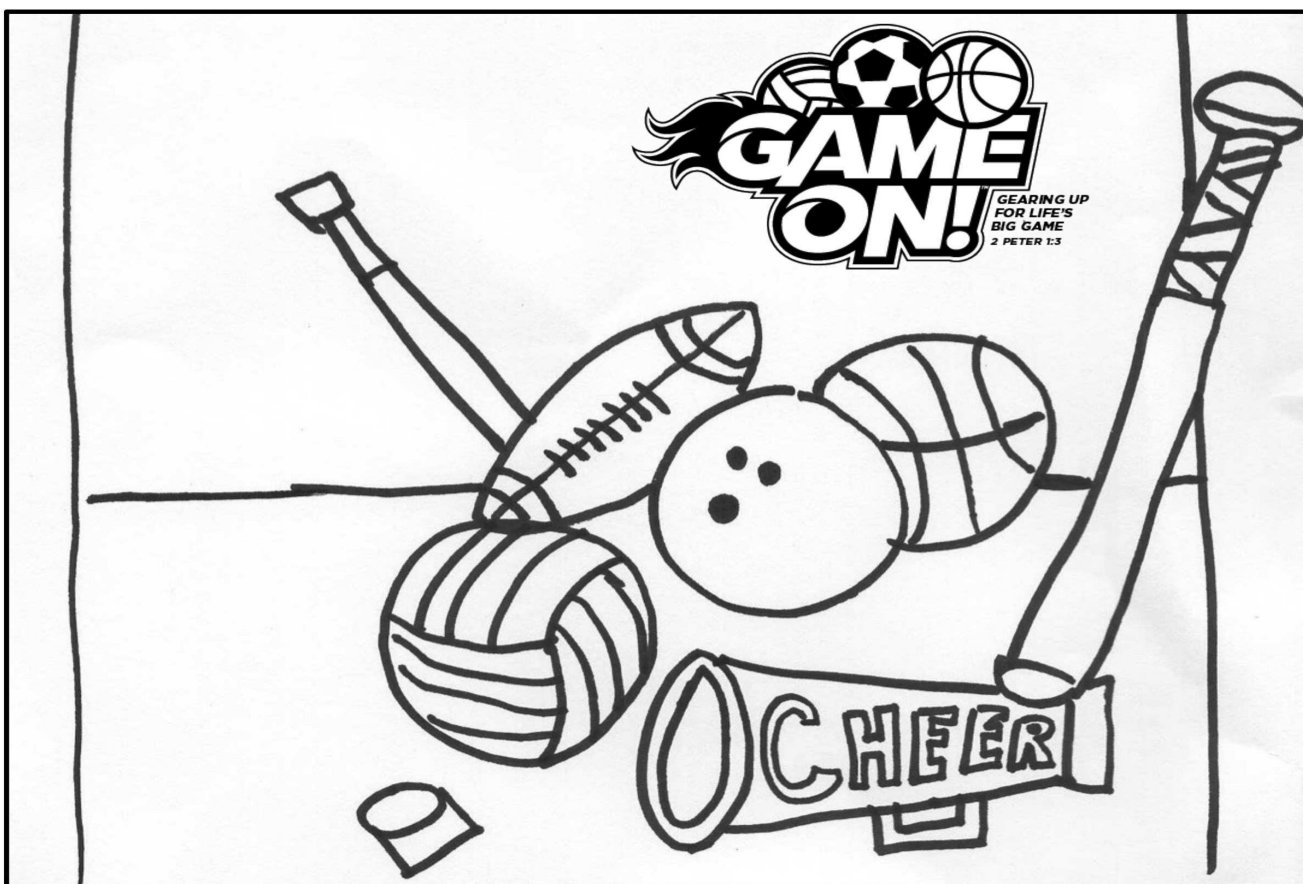
1935 E 25th St, Florence, OR

541-997-7660

Tailgate Party & Coloring Contest is for all age children!

Turn in the coloring page and registration form by June 24th in one of the following ways:

1. Tailgate Party June 16th Games, Food & Prizes Noon to 2:00 PM (Church Parking Lot)
2. Email: info@firstbaptistflorence.org
3. Mail: 1935 E 25 St Florence, OR 95439 or Call: 541-997-7660
4. Drop off at Church on Sundays between 9:30 & 11:00 AM



Colored by: _____ Age: _____ Art by Tawnya Peerson

Vacation Bible School June 25 – 29, 2018

Registration Form

Ages 5 years – 6th Grade

9 – Noon

First Baptist Church
 1935 E 25th Street, Florence, OR
 Call for more information: 997-7660
 (Please leave a message)



Child's Name:		
Parent/Guardian Name:		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Mailing Address (if different) Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone Numbers		
Home:	Work:	Cell:
Email:		

Age Information

Birth date: _____

Last grade completed in school: _____

Medical Information

Medical or other information we need to know. (Please include any food allergies)

Emergency Contacts (other than listed above)

Name:	Phone number:
Name:	Phone number:
Name:	Phone number:
Name:	Phone number:

Dismissal Information

Who may pick up your child at the end of each VBS day?

Name:	Phone number:
Name:	Phone number:

Other Information

Does your child attend Sunday School? If so where? _____

If your child is visiting our church, who are they a guest of? _____

May we have permission to photograph your child? Yes No

May we have permission to use your child's photograph for the purpose of promotion? Yes No

UR Worth It

Come in and meet our newest stylist Karen.

HAIR SALON

Men • Women • Children

Need a Perk-Up from the Neck-Up?
 We can help you with Cuts, Perms, Colors & Facial Waxing.

Open Monday –Friday , 9ish-5ish
 Late and Weekends by appointment only.

1247 Bay Street • Florence, OR • 541-997-7377

FRESH CRAB

GRILLED SALMON WITH HONEY-SOY MARINADE

INGREDIENTS:
 1 Tbs packed brown sugar
 1 Tbs butter or margarine, melted
 1 Tbs olive oil or vegetable oil
 1 Tbs honey
 1 Tbs soy sauce
 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
 1 large Salmon Filet approx 2 lbs., cut into 8 pieces

How to Make It:
 In small bowl, mix all ingredients except salmon.
 In shallow glass or plastic dish, place salmon. Pour marinade over salmon. Cover and refrigerate at least 30 minutes but no longer than 1 hour.
 Heat coals or gas grill. Remove salmon from marinade; reserve marinade. Place salmon, skin side down, on grill. Cover and grill over medium heat 10 to 20 minutes, brushing 2 or 3 times with marinade, until salmon flakes easily with fork. Discard any remaining marinade.

FRESH IN THE CASE THIS WEEK:
 Chinook Salmon (steaks & filets)
 Ling Cod, Rock Fish, Petrale and Dover Sole, Shrimp, Oysters, Steamer Clams, Smoked Fish, Fresh Crab and More

Happy Father's Day!

THE KRAB KETTLE
 280 Hwy. 101 (2 Blocks N. of Bridge) Florence
 MONDAY-SUNDAY 10-6 • 541-997-8996