

Confessions of an eighth grade killer

Note: This story is adapted from Nancy Kennedy's book, "Move Over, Victoria, I Know the Real Secret."

We're going through the Ten Commandments at my church and we recently hit No. 6, "Thou shalt not murder."

she was awful. I was sure Scott would come running back the moment he saw her for who she really was.



NANCY KENNEDY

It reminded me of my first premeditated murder. I was 14.

I don't remember her name, just that she was a scrawny blonde who stole my boyfriend in 8th grade.

His name was Scott. Silky blond hair. Played football.

I was in love, sure I would one day become Mrs. Silky Blond-Haired Scott.

Then she showed up and ruined everything.

Technically, he dumped me before he ever met her. But that's not how I like to remember it.

After all we had meant to each other, I knew I had to win him back.

So I killed her.

Trashed her reputation with preteen vengeance, spread lies, told everyone

bringing his friends with him. They ambushed me on the football field, one by one telling me what a horrible human being I was.

Turns out the only person I made look bad was me.

What I had thought would be sweet revenge turned out to be a bitter poison. When you're in 8th grade and everybody hates you, you might as well crawl in a hole and die.

My only saving grace? It happened at the end of the school year. Just a few weeks of daggered stares and whispering behind my back until summer break.

It was sheer agony, not just being hated, but realizing how much unbridled hatred I could harbor.

And yet, I blamed her. It was her fault. She made me like this.

I know better now. I know that I am capable of

incredible evil, including murder.

Jesus said anyone who is angry at another person without cause, or even calling someone a "fool," is guilty of murder (Matthew 5:21-22).

The Heidelberg Catechism puts it this way: "In forbidding murder, God teaches us that he abhors the causes thereof, such as envy, hatred, anger and desire of revenge; and that he accounts all these as murder."

A few weeks ago, my pastor asked, "Are you currently holding a grudge? Are you bitter? Have you rejoiced over someone else's misfortune? Anyone you feel is worthy of your indifference or contempt?"

Then he said, "It's good for us to confess the seeds of murder that are in our hearts."

He also said that this commandment not only means "don't take a life." It means we're called to give life. "Not just spare others from our worst,

but to give them our best, even our enemies," he said.

That's impossible to do on our own. We don't naturally possess love for those we hate.

But in our confession, God forgives and "cleanses us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

We love because God first loved us. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

His mercy enables ours. His grace makes us gracious, even to our enemies.

The good news is, I haven't intentionally killed anybody since 8th grade. (But I've come close.)

Thankfully, Jesus saves murderers — even the ones who kill only in their hearts.

Contact Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 (leave a message) or email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

Doctor interrupts day of fishing to deliver 29-pound baby

A woman went into labor at the lake and the baby was coming fast. Her husband began yelling frantically for a doctor. There just happened to be one fishing from a boat nearby. He motored to shore and delivered the baby boy.

"Oh, wouldn't it be nice if we could weigh and measure him," the new mom said.

"I have just what we need in my tackle box," the doctor said, retrieving his fish scale and measuring tape. "Let's

see here; looks like he weighs 29 pounds and is 37 inches long."

I sure laughed when Jack Sellards, a former Marine and Korean War veteran, told me that joke. Now retired, Jack ran a television shop for many years in the town of Barbourville in southeastern Kentucky where he was known for his honesty and integrity.

The Bible gives us a stark warning about



ROGER ALFORD

SEE DOCTOR/PAGE A8

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

The County of Owen, Kentucky (the "County"), hereby gives public notice that at a meeting of the County Fiscal Court held in the Owen County Courthouse, 100 N. Thomas Street, Owenton, Kentucky 40359, on the 22nd day of July, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., EST (local time), Ordinance #250 identified by its title and summarized as follows was given a second reading for passage and adopted by the Fiscal Court of the County.

SUMMARY

Ordinance #250 Whereas, the Owen Fiscal County has determined it is appropriate to allow the operation of street legal special purpose vehicles of specified highways within the jurisdictional boundaries of Owen County in accordance with the act and this ordinance.

The full text of Ordinance #250 is on file in the office of the Owen County Judge Executive, Owen County Courthouse, 100 N. Thomas Street, Owenton, Kentucky 40359, where they will be available for public inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Conservation District Cost Share Program

The Owen County Conservation District will be accepting requests for cost share funding under the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program. This program was created to assist agricultural operations in protecting the soil and water resources of Kentucky. This program allows funds to be administered through conservation districts with priority given to animal waste related problems. This program contains best management practices that include rotational grazing systems, alternative watering systems, heavy use feeding areas, sinkhole protection, grassed waterways, and vegetative critical areas, just to name a few examples.

Please contact your conservation district for more practice details. Funding for practices will be approved by the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission as funds are available. Approved applicants are reimbursed at a 75% cost share rate for installing practices up to the maximum amount allowed per applicant per year. Applications may be requested at any time during the year and are ranked annually.

For more information stop by the conservation district office located at 205 West Perry St., Owenton. Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone: 502-484-2719 ext: 4012.

It's Back-To-School Time!

We've Got Your Family's Back This School Year

Reliable Coverage for all of your insurance needs

State Farm

112 N. Main Street, Owenton, Ky. 502-484-5190
owentoninsurance.com

**AUTO • HOMEOWNERS • CONDO • RENTERS
PERSONAL ARTICLES • BUSINESS • LIFE • HEALTH**

Earn money for your school with every purchase!

OWEN COUNTY REBELS Check Card

DEBIT VISA

German American Bank

Use your School Spirit Check Card* for everyday purchases, and we'll donate money to your school every time you use your card!

Over 90 Schools Available!

For more details, visit germanamerican.com/spirit-card

German American Bank

(502)484-3434 • germanamerican.com

*Check card requires a German American checking account and approval of check card application.

Member FDIC

owentonnewsherald.com

To subscribe call 502-732-4261 ext. 1

has... MORE!

KENTUCKY EXTRA

After 20 years, Louisville Orchestra has triumphant return to Elizabethtown

authorizes special purpose vehicles on public roads

Mayorberry for a day

Patriotic concerts to celebrate nation's birthday

Keep your grilled chicken juicy, thanks to these tips

Spicy chicken thigh with mint yogurt sauce reveals in warm spices

PMG Extra daily e-Edition content pages such as Food, Sports, Health, Technology, Auto, Home and more.

FREE for Subscribers