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Ledger

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Getting it right

The Enterprise Ledger strives to make sure content in the newspaper is accurate and factual. When the Ledger learns that it has made an error, it is policy to correct the mistake promptly. To report an error, call the Ledger Monday through Friday at 334-393-9701.

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Week in Review

Here are some of the special features the Ledger offers its readers each day:

FRIDAY

Students of the week: Each week during the school year, the Enterprise Ledger profiles two students from area county and city schools. Students are nominated by their teachers.

SUNDAY

Accents: Weddings, anniversaries and birthdays.

Obituaries

Estel J. Cooley

Mr. Estel J. Cooley, of Enterprise, passed away on Monday, December 25, 2017 at home with his family by his side. He was 87.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 28, 2017 in the chapel of Sorrells Funeral Home & Crematory in Enterprise. Burial will follow in Glen Haven Memorial Park in Winter Park, Florida, where a graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, December 29, 2017 with Sorrells Funeral Home & Crematory directing.

Estel was born October 16, 1930, in Adair County, Kentucky. He was a veteran of the United States Army. He was a member of Lee Street Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred McCollough Cooley of Enterprise; two

sons: Jerry Cooley (Deborah) of Polk City, FL, and Tim Cooley (Suzette) of Sanford, FL; a brother, LZ Cooley of Louisville, KY; four grandchildren: Brian, Jonathan, Colin, and Tolena; three great-grandchildren: Serenity, Savannah, and Dakota.

The family thanks Day-Spring Hospice and Dr. Rhyne for their loving, compassionate care.

To sign a guest register visit www.sorrellsfuneralhomes.com.

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Best Bets

CURRENTLY

Baseball camp registration

Enterprise High School is hosting a four-week baseball camp beginning Jan. 14. EHS head coach JD Pruitt will direct the program in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy. Classes are available for players in grades 1-12 and are limited to seven players per coach. Registration is under way. For more information, visit www.USBASEBALLAcademy.com, or call toll-free 866-622-4487.

Scholarship application

LBW Community College's online scholarship application for the 2018-19 academic year is available now through Feb. 15, 2018, at www.lbwcc.edu, for all institutional and foundation scholarships. Both incoming and current student applicants must submit all required documentation before the deadline for consideration, including information from the U.S. Dept. of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov. For more information, call 334-881-2282.

JAN. 10

Music Club meeting

The Enterprise Music Club, a member of the State Federation of Music Clubs and the National Federation of Music Clubs, will meet Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 9:30 a.m., at the First Baptist Church in Enterprise. The program will be organ music provided by John S. Dixon, organist and composer-in-residence from Norfolk, Virginia. The public is invited. Call Roy Hoobler at 390-1009 for more information.

JAN. 29

Fundraiser dinner

Wiregrass Emergency Pregnancy Service, Inc. is a nonprofit medical facility certified by the state of Alabama that offers free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, education, counseling, mentoring and hope to those facing unplanned pregnancies. WEPS will host its fourth annual fundraiser dinner

Monday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m., at the Enterprise Civic Center. Tickets are available for \$35 each. For more information, call Harolyn Benjamin at 390-0649, or email weeps4life@troycable.net, or wepsdirector@troycable.net. The WEP office number is 417-0270.

FEB. 3

Black History Banquet

The 20th community-wide Black History Banquet is set for Saturday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m., at the Enterprise Civic Center.

MARCH 3

Rodeo pageant

The 2018 Opp Rattlesnake Rodeo Pageant will be Saturday, March 3, from 3-6 p.m. at the Opp High School auditorium. Applications are available at Opp Chamber of Commerce, www.rattlesnakerodeo.com, WAMI and WOPP radio stations, and local area schools. The pageant is open to girls ages 6-21. For more information, call Kelly Brandin at 334-493-3070, or go to the Opp Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page. The application deadline is Feb. 21.

MAY 18-28

Trip

The trip to Mount Rushmore, the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota includes transportation; 10 nights lodging; 18 meals; a visit to Mount Rushmore National Memorial; a visit to Badlands National Park; a tour of Wildlife Loop Road at Custer State Park; a visit to Crazy Horse Memorial; admission to Unique Journey Museum; a tour of Deadwood; and more. The cost is \$930 for double occupancy. Space is limited. Call Jacque Hawkins at 470-7095 for more information.

I've got a 50-percent chance of being right, right?

Fresh off its signing day bonanza, Georgia enters its first-ever college football playoff in one of the weirdest matchups I can remember. The Bulldogs are seemingly underdogs, yet they are a 2-point favorite. Go figure!

Meanwhile, Alabama didn't exactly sneak in the back door to the playoffs — the Crimson Tide did go 11-1 in the toughest division in the toughest conference — but it is expected to lay an egg if you listen to pundits who think a team that lost twice (Ohio State) and lost by 31 to a 7-5 Iowa team should have got in over an Alabama team that lost once, and that was to 10-win Auburn. Sometimes, you just need to win more often, and you certainly can't get taken to the woodshed by an average team.

No, 'Bama didn't win the conference championship, but at some point you have to look at the records. Otherwise, why isn't Troy in the playoffs? It won the Sun Belt.

Despite all the whining about Alabama, the Crimson Tide is nevertheless a 3-point favorite. Go figure!

Auburn will get a Central Florida, excuse me, UCF that didn't lose in 12 outings, but the Knights' best win was 62-55 over Memphis. If Auburn can't put up 42 against UCF, I'll be the first to say there was too much eggnog on the plains (still looking for those plains in Lee County ... they're nowhere to be found) this holiday season.

UCF is a very good football team, but it has yet to play SEC-caliber competition and, assuming the Tigers are eggnog-free come game



Kyle Mooty
Editor

time at the Peach Bowl on Monday, I'll take a very good Auburn from the SEC to beat a very good UCF from the American Athletic Conference any day of the week ... and twice Sunday (or in this case, Monday).

Auburn 49, UCF 28

The most disturbing player in college football this season is talented-yet-social-misfit Baker Mayfield, a guy no one should want their son to be like. Yet, the Oklahoma quarterback still won the Heisman Trophy despite his constant antics on and off the field and the fact that he amassed such numbers by playing in a conference (the Big 12, which has 10 teams, by the way) that considers defense more of an annoyance than a must.

Kirby Smart is hands-down the coach of the year in college football, taking perennially disappointing Georgia to college football's greener pastures of the playoffs. You can have your Scott Frost, but I'll take what Smart did over anyone else any day of the week and twice ... well, you get the point. The Bulldogs won at Notre Dame — no small feat — and responded to a previous shellacking at Auburn by returning the favor in the SEC Championship game.

Mayfield can only hope he's not hit as hard as the policeman who slammed him into a wall as he tried to run on foot from offi-

cers earlier this year while intoxicated. That was an impressive tackle! If you haven't seen it, look it up. Georgia will bring a defense unlike the Sooners have faced, but OU will bring an offense unlike Georgia has faced.

Oklahoma 34, Georgia 30

Alabama-Clemson III. Deshaun Watson was the biggest nightmare Alabama has faced during the Nick-Saban era, including the likes of Cam Newton and Johnny Manziel. He's playing in the NFL, and I don't care who's taking snaps for the Tigers, the big thing for 'Bama is it's not Watson.

What Dabo Swinney has built at Clemson is amazing. If you've ever been to Clemson, you'll understand. Its population in the 2010 Census was 13,905, or less than half of Enterprise. If and when Saban retires at Alabama, the powers that be in Tuscaloosa should offer Saban-esque numbers in a contract. Swinney and Saban have done the best job over the last decade than any others, with a possible inclusion of the NFL's Bill Belichick.

I still believe the most talented team Saban had at Alabama went only 10-3 in 2010, the year after it beat Texas for the national title. Most everyone was back, but the desire and chemistry just wasn't the same. I don't see great chemistry on this Alabama team, but you pick against Saban at your own risk since he's lost just 14 games in the last 10 seasons. Again, Alabama is favored, but this may be an upset if Saban pulls it off.

I just can't get past the fact that Clemson lost to Syracuse.

Alabama 30, Clemson 28

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