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MOSTLY SUNNY AND NICE 71 • 43 For more weather, see the Dothan Eagle

FORT RUCKER



DREW HAMILTON, AVCOE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fort Rucker honored soldiers and Army civilians retiring from federal service during the Fort Rucker Quarterly Retirement Ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum hosted by Col. Michael H. Gourgues, 1st Aviation Brigade commander.

Retiring area soldiers, Army civilians honored

KELLY MORRIS
AVCOE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT RUCKER – Fort Rucker honored soldiers and Army civilians who are retiring from federal service during the Fort Rucker Quarterly Retirement Ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Feb. 6.

Ceremony host Col. Michael H. Gourgues, 1st Aviation Brigade commander, said the retirees have earned their rest through “unwavering devotion” to the nation.

“There’s a saying – if you’re going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can’t be erased. Today we are in the presence of Americans who have done just that, and we are here to honor warriors,” Gourgues said.

“To you who are retiring, know this. You are not shuffling off into the quiet of life; you are marching into the pages of history. The standards you set, the soldiers you molded, the very character you imprinted upon this Army, that is your

immortal legacy,” he said.

He explained their service has entered a new phase, and he called upon them to be leaders in their community.

Each retiree received a Retirement Award, a Certificate of Retirement and an American Flag. Military retirees also received a Certificate of Appreciation for their military service. Spouses received a Certificate of Appreciation.

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Main Street Enterprise crowns 2026 Mardi Gras king, queen

FOR THE LEDGER

Downtown Enterprise came alive Saturday for the annual Mardi Gras on Main, celebrating community spirit while raising funds for downtown revitalization projects.

The event featured an expanded parade route, including Easy Street, North Main and East College Street, drawing scores of people to cheer for the colorful entries in the golf cart parade.

The excitement continued with the Crowning Ceremony on the Carr, Riggs & Ingram balcony, followed by the Royal Celebration with live music, food and activities for all ages. The night wrapped up with a Mardi Gras Stroll passport event, inviting attendees to visit local restaurants and businesses throughout downtown.

Marcella Cardona was crowned queen and Mike Maquet was crowned king. This year’s royalty candidates also included

Shavonne Burrows, Kassy Skinner, Regena Johnson-Adams, Karen Kelley, Tyler Stump, Aaron Shealey, George Scott and Austin Parker.

Cardona splits her time between the court system as a certified interpreter and Coffee County Family Services, while Maquet is co-owner of Par & Pour and serves as an active-duty Army soldier stationed at Fort Rucker.

Funds raised during Mardi Gras on Main, including proceeds from the golf cart parade and royalty voting, exceeded \$5,500 and continue to support downtown beautification efforts. Since the inaugural event in 2024, Mardi Gras on Main has raised more than \$30,000 for downtown improvements, including branded patio umbrellas in The Nook, electrical and lighting upgrades, and a topographic survey to guide future infrastructure enhancements.



Mike Maquet, left, was crowned 2026 Main Street Enterprise Mardi Gras king and Marcella Cardona was crowned queen during the annual Mardi Gras on Main Celebration held in downtown Enterprise Saturday.

CITY OF ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Military families can apply for Corvias Foundation scholarship, **PAGE A2**



Check out the interactive weather maps at www.eprisenow.com

Best Bets, a community calendar of events, **PAGE A3**