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NEWS, 5A

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Police motorcycle officers escort the hearse carrying Rittman police Sgt. Scott Ries after his funeral at Northside Christian Church in Wadsworth on July 10. Ries was shot and killed in the line of duty July 5.

## Rittman Sgt. Scott Ries remembered as ‘teddy bear’

**Bryce Buyakie**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Shots rang out in a salute to Rittman police Sgt. Scott Ries as the skies opened up with a drowning rain at Rittman cemetery, drenching mourners, law enforcement, police horses and on-lookers alike.

Despite the downpour and beating sun earlier in the day, mourners from across Ohio paid their respects to Ries on July 10. Family, friends and colleagues filled the 800-seat chapel at Northside Christian Church just outside of Wadsworth while the overflow areas and halls brimmed with hundreds of first responders.

Those who spoke at the service, like Chaplain Curt Stauffer and celebrant Kevin O’Brien, described Ries as a teacher, a “teddy bear,” a volunteer football coach, a “girl dad” and much more.

“His story is shorter than it should have been, but it isn’t finished,” Stauffer said during the service, saying his story will live on through his family, friends



A woman shows her support as the funeral procession Rittman police Sgt. Scott Ries funeral travels along Ridge Road in Wadsworth on July 10.

PHOTOS BY MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

and the Rittman Police Department.

Ries was fatally shot on July 5 while responding to a violent domestic dispute that killed him and two others: Christie McWilliams, 43, and her

daughter McKinley, 13. Four other officers and Wayne County Sheriff’s Department K-9 Vick were also injured in

**See RIES, Page 2A**

### COSHOCTON’S AMERICA250

## History, music and community highlight events

**Leonard L. Hayhurst**  
Coshocton Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

COSHOCTON – Historical presentations, a patriotic concert, a pub crawl, Revolutionary War reenactments, live music and a car show was just a few of the free ways to celebrate America250 across Coshocton County.

The celebration starts July 16 and concludes July 19, with free tours of Roscoe Village historic sites, complimentary admission to the Johnson Humrickhouse Museum, free canal boat rides, and a historic lecture.

Here’s list of activities:

#### July 16

Betty Zane: Heroine of the Revolution presentation from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Coshocton County District Library.

“The Secret Garden” musical presentation by GhostBox Productions at 7 p.m. at Clary Gardens. General admission is \$15; students and seniors are \$10. Tickets available at ghostboxproductions.com. Repeat performance on July 18.

#### July 17

Cheers to 250 Years Pub Crawl sponsored by Our Town Coshocton at 4 p.m. at restaurants and bars throughout Roscoe Village and Downtown Coshocton. A list of participating businesses and more information can be found on the OTC Facebook page.

Coshocton Model Railroad Club open house from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Coshocton County Fairground.

Coshocton Community Band will present a patriotic concert at 7 p.m. on the Court Square.

#### July 18

Riverwalk with Coshocton County Administrator Mary Beck and Native

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## Lisa McCoy advances in national competition supporting female veterans

**Leonard L. Hayhurst**  
Coshocton Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK

COSHOCTON – Lisa McCoy had to blink, then double check a finalists list four times to fully believe she had made the top 20 for Ms. Veteran America.

The U.S. Army veteran and current secretary and color guard adviser at River View High School was one of 40 women who competed in the semi-fi-

nals in June. She now moves onto the finals with the crowning set for Oct. 11 in Tampa, Florida.

“Seeing my name on the list made me feel truly honored and blessed beyond words can explain,” McCoy said. “In the next instant I felt sadness creeping in as I knew that some of my sisters-in-arms would not be continuing this journey with me. Each and every one of us started this journey months ago with some prayers, glimmers of hope and our

hearts full with selfless service to be the woman beyond the uniform.”

The contest encourages women veterans to uplift each other and find their tribe, according to its website. It’s a program of Final Salute Inc., which started in 2010, that helps female veterans and their families who are homeless or under financial strain.

The finals will include an interview,

**See MCCOY, Page 2A**



Lisa McCoy recently competed in the semi-final round of Ms. Veteran America in Florida. She is one of 20 competing in the finals Oct. 11.

PROVIDED BY LISA MCCOY

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