**Auction: Roaring for 20 years**

*By Kate Miller*

Record Managing Editor

The annual Blue and Gold Auction to benefit the Wright City High School Scholarship Fund is Saturday, March 23, at the Wright City Lions Club. The theme is “Roaring for 20 Years!” in honor of the event’s 20th anniversary.

“As of 2018, we’ve raised $626,600 in scholarship money,” said Kristin Beckmeyer, one of the founding members of the Wright City High School Scholarship Fund committee. “We’ve supported 353 graduating senior scholarships and they can continue receiving scholarship funding for four years as long as they apply and meet our criteria.”

Beckmeyer said scholarships help students with community college, trade schools, and four-year college degrees.

The WCHS Scholarship Fund, a nonprofit organization, will present the 2019 Blue and Gold benefit auction and dinner for senior scholarships. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Space is limited. For reservations contact Beckmeyer at 636-745-3399 or Kristin@fmbank.com or Lois Meyer at 636-745-3399.

Guests can expect appetizers, a prime rib dinner, a dessert dash, or auctioning of homemade desserts, and a live auction.

The first Blue and Gold event was held in 1999. Beckmeyer said the group saw a need to help students more easily afford learning beyond high school. The community approach ever since has been education is good for them and also good for Wright City.

Beckmeyer said about 300 people usually attend, making it a successful event.

“We make it really fun, and we have a fantastic community that does it. Everybody ships in and helps. It has a really great community feel to it,” Beckmeyer said.

**Downtown**

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contending with changes to commerce brought about by the internet are just some of them. But Whig said the effort is worth it, because a healthy downtown spreads its benefits to the rest of the community.

“Downtown businesses tend to support their community, much (more) than chains,” Whig said, explaining that those businesses not only contribute to local community programs from outside the area.

Warrenton Mayor Eric Schleuter said the city government is dedicated to partnering with downtown businesses to spur renewal and rehabilitation. He complimented the Warrenton Downtown Association on festivals and activities the group has organized on Main Street, but Schleuter said it falls on the entire community to support local entrepreneurs and employers.

“We need to start supporting our local businesses. All of them, not just the big ones, but the small ones too,” Schleuter said. “We...