

## Ducks Unlimited celebrates 75 years this Saturday night in Imperial

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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The annual Frenchman Valley Ducks Unlimited (DU) Chapter banquet is coming up. Scheduled for Saturday, March 24, the banquet will begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour at the Imperial City Gym. A prime rib sandwich dinner follows at 7 p.m. MT.

A live auction, scheduled for 8 p.m., will include a DU Yeti cooler, according to coordinator Kelen Fortkamp. A silent auction will also be held.

A drawing will be held for a Terry Redlin 75th Anniversary print, for those who purchased tickets prior to March 16.

Tickets are \$40 for a single and \$50 for a couple. Children accompanied by adults are allowed in free of charge.

Reservations may be made by calling Fortkamp at (308) 883-6338.

Fortkamp said there will be games for both children and adults.

He noted that DU is celebrating its 75th year, having been chartered in 1937. The local chapter helps improve habitat along the Platte River near Paxton and in rainwater basins.

“We focus on where you get the best use of money,” Fortkamp stated, adding that there aren’t many duck habitat areas in the Imperial area.

He pointed out that, nationally, 81 percent of the money raised by DU is used for waterfowl/wetlands conservation and education.

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Sixteen percent goes towards fundraising and development. Three percent is used for administration and human resources.