

By Carolyn Lee The Imperial Republican

Mark the calender for the annual Frenchman Valley Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (DU) banquet, scheduled this year for March 23.

The evening will begin at the Imperial City Gymnasium with a social hour and silent auction at 6 p.m.

A prime rib sandwich dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with an auction to follow.

Coordinator Kelen Fortkamp said DU is especially excited about a DPMS AR15 .223 caliber rifle to be auctioned off, as they are "extremely hard to come by." Also to be sold by auctioneer Doug Wilson will be a bronze mallard sculpture, prints, decoys and miscellaneous items.

Games, with prizes, for adults and youth will be played during the evening.

Tickets, which include the meal and a DU membership, are \$45 for a single or \$50 for a couple, with children age 15 and under admitted free with a parent.

Fortkamp noted that if a ticket is purchased prior to the event, the person's name will be entered into a drawing for a pintail duck sculpture.

Proceeds from the evening benefit continental waterfowl conservation. Fortkamp said the DU committee would like to have 150 people attending the banquet.

Tickets may be purchased by calling Fortkamp at (308) 883-6338 or by contacting committee members Kendall Dubas, Jeremy Vlasin, Adam Vlasin, Jason Speck or Ryan Wisnieski.