

written about him.

Like his grandson, young Winston, and my friend, Richard, views of Churchill tend to be polarized. Biographers either loved him or hated him.

I have to tell you . . . in this one man who had the good fortune to be born in the bosom of English aristocracy and lived to a ripe old age caught up in the machinations of world change, it is possible to see some conflicting traits that trapped him in the throes of good and evil.

Politically, he was to the right of Louis the XIV, or Attila the Hun for that matter. He believed absolutely that the monarchy was the lynchpin of British culture, and of course, he was its publicist.

He believed that as British secretary of state for the colonies he had the responsibility and the authority to divide up the Middle East in spheres of influence to be managed by England, France and Russia. And the world is living with the outcome of those actions to this day.

When in 1943, in the throes of World War II, a disastrous famine hit a section of Bengal, Churchill forced India to export its rice to the war effort rather than to the starving Bengalese.

He hated Mahatma Gandhi because he (Churchill) saw India as a rightful province of Great Britain. And he never forgave Lord Louis Mountbatten for overseeing the withdrawal of British rule from that country.

He hated Hitler and began lobbying the British government against the man he already saw as the German dictator in the early 1930s.

Above all, he loved England, which he described as "our little island." At the height of the blitz, when German bombs rang down on London every night, with his famous V sign and his constant speechifying, he rallied Londoners to keep their heads up and, if necessary, be prepared to fight on the beaches.

So Richard is not wrong to suggest that to truly know this guy we have to take a careful look at the man that his fellow countrymen recently voted the greatest Englishman of all time.

Churchill said it himself. He wanted to be remembered exactly as he was, "warts and all." So maybe Richard is doing what the great man would have wanted.

Whoever he was, though, I hold onto the notion that Churchill was a great man.

The doors open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.

The band Rewind will play from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Dinner will consist of rib-eye steak, baked potato and salad.

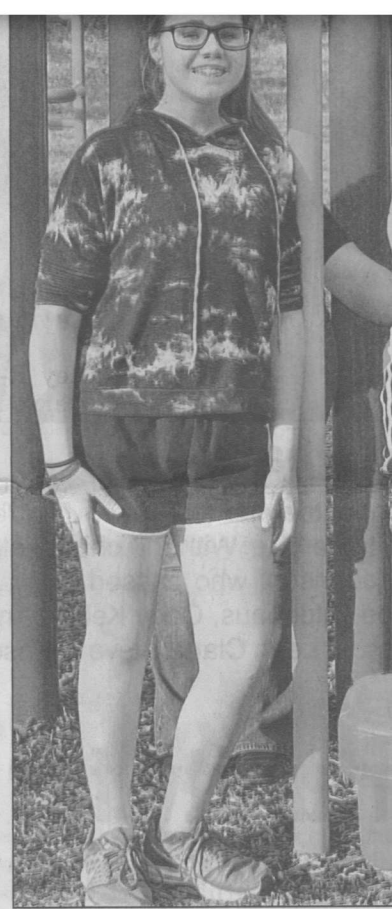
To purchase advance tickets, call the Legion at 636-257-3298.

Author of Civil War Book to Speak at Library

As part of the Franklin County Bicentennial Program, the Scenic Regional Library Pacific branch will host Walt Larson, author of "Price's Raid," Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 6 p.m.

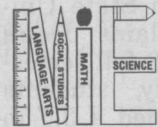
Larson will talk about the Civil War in Franklin County with an emphasis on its impact to the citizens of Pacific.

This is a free program for adults 18 and older, but reservations are required. To register, call 636-257-2712 or go online to the events calendar at www.scenicregional.org.



Warm Weather Friends

New friends assemble on day, Feb. 3, as temps climb. A large number of families, left, are Allayna Golian, Levi Kline, Hunter Kline, Amari Hinkle and Lexi Hill. Missourian Photo.



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Drummer to Play at Library

Scenic Regional Library's Pacific branch will bring a little bit of the tropics to its facility Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m.

The event will feature steel drum music by Lenny Frisch, who has played on cruise ships, at Ballpark Village, local wineries and even

opened for Jimmy Buffet.

Frisch also will talk about the history of steel drums.

This is a free program for adults 18 and older, but registration is required. To register, call 636-257-2712 or go online to the events calendar at www.scenicregional.org.

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