



3 Proposed Routes
BR Loop
 Detailed Map
 See Pages 6-7

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83 Acres on Sullivan Road North of Jackson Park

Site for New Schools



MAJESTIC OAKS on 83 acres off Sullivan Road north of Jackson Park Subdivision will form the setting for a new school complex, which will include a new Central Middle School and a new elementary school, if members of the Central Community School Board accept a proposal by Central schools Supt. Mike Faulk next Thursday.

Woody Jenkins
Editor, Central City News

CENTRAL — Next Thursday, the Central Community School Board will consider a recommendation by Supt. Mike Faulk that the board purchase an 83-acre site on Sullivan Road for construction of a new middle school and a new elementary school. The board will meet at 6 p.m. at Kristenwood.

The new schools were authorized by Central voters last May.

Faulk said Wednesday the Ad Hoc Board's Committee is reviewing among 14 proposals submitted by Central property owners. It has

an 1,800-foot frontage on Sullivan Road and the rest of the property said would be preserved. "These trees will not be cut, if I have to

chain myself to them!" he said. Faulk recommends a purchase of \$29,000 an acre, which conforms See **NEW SCHOOL** on Page 3

Qualifying Opens Feb. 3 for Mayor, City Council

CENTRAL — East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court Doug Welborn will accept qualification forms for Central city elections at Central City Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 3 —

the first day of qualifying for the March 27 election. Forms will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 12 noon that day. Qualifying will be held from Wednesday, Feb. 3 to Friday,

Feb. 5 at the Clerk's office in Room 179 of the Governmental Building downtown and at Coursey Branch office at 10500 Coursey Blvd. from See **QUALIFYING** on Page 2

A Remarkable Night 65 Years Ago in Central

Conn. City to Honor Central's War Hero With Life-Size Statue

Woody Jenkins
Editor, Central City News

CENTRAL — On Wednesday night, Jan. 24, 1945, more than 700 Central residents gathered at the high school gym to pay tribute to Homer Wise, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

See **CENTRAL** on Page 4

WERE YOU THERE?
 Were you at the Central HS Gym to honor Homer Wise gather for a photo this Sunday, Jan. 24 at 3 p.m. on steps of the old gym, Hooper at Sullivan. WWII Vets: Come, too!



CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR — Homer Wise returned to his native Central in January 1945 after having just been awarded the Medal of Honor. Shown with his wife Madelyn DiSesa of Stamford, Conn. Stamford plans to erect a statue in his honor.

The News with Oren Muse
 Broadcast Live on WJBO Radio
 12:15 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25, 1945
 (Script provided by Preston Morgan)

OREN MUSE: Did you ever meet a hero? It's quite an experience. Quite. In this case, he's just a plain American guy. A kid you used to know if you lived in the Central community. A little kid who didn't have it too easy then. Perhaps doesn't have it too easy now. But a good kid and a hero.

We are speaking of Sgt. Homer Wise. Well, last night Sgt. Homer Wise actually arrived at home. At long last. Actually. For he was on the stage at the Central High School — and all the folks he used to know, a lot about him, and a lot of others were out last night to wish him well.

The Central school auditorium, which is also used for basketball. See **LONG** on Page 4

Central's Only Medal of Honor Winner

Continued from Page 1

Now, Stamford, Conn., is planning to honor the Central hero with a life-sized bronze statue by renowned sculptor Janice Mauro of Redding, Connecticut.

Homer Wise grew up in Central and attended Central School. During World War II, he became one of America's most decorated heroes, receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor and many other awards. The citation on the Medal of Honor says,

"Magliano, Italy, in the summer of 1944 was the scene of intensive resistance by well-trained and experienced German soldiers. Fierce machine gun fire hit the 142nd Infantry Regiment. The day was hot and artillery fire had set the dry grass ablaze. In the heat of the battle, Staff Sergeant Homer L. Wise, squad leader of Company I, performed heroically with amazing agility and initiative. While his platoon was pinned down by intensive fire, he and three others went into the fire-swept area to bring a wounded buddy to safety. When a German officer and two men challenged him, he killed all three. Later he obtained and fired a rifle grenade launcher upon enemy positions causing them to flee. He obtained a Browning Automatic Weapon, and neutralized the frontal fire, allowing his men to move forward. He boldly climbed on a tank, remedied a stoppage in the turret machine gun and fired 750 rounds into the



CENTRAL'S HOMER WISE was one of the most decorated veterans of World War II and received the Medal of Honor for bravery by exposing himself to overwhelming German fire to rescue fellow GI's and then destroying the enemy. In center photo, Homer receiving the Medal of Honor. At right, Homer with wife Madolyn DiSesa and son Jeffrey in Germany in 1953. Madolyn was from Stamford, CT. In 2003, Homer Wise was one of six honorary pallbearers selected by President Eisenhower for the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington. See HOMER on Page 11

Long-Forgotten Radio Script Recounts Remarkable Night in 1945

Continued from Page 1

ball games, was filled to overflowing with adults and children. There were those, for instance, who used to go to school with him. Billie Smith—fair, modest Billie Smith, whose husband, Teddie, is fighting in Belgium, and who had sent the original story from Stars and Stripes that got all the celebration started. There was Mrs. Joe Sanders—an attractive young woman—who held the cutest youngster you have seen on her lap. Her own. He was in red corduroy slacks and while the ceremonies to honor the hero were going on, the baby calmly took his bottle. Her husband, Cpl. Joe Sanders, is in Belgium and has never seen the baby. And what a wonderful surprise he is going to get. And then, there was West Carpenter, a former U.S. Marine who used to go to school with Homer Wise.

And there was Mrs. T.J. Cobb—who took our favorite six-year-old for the duration of the program—took him over because she likes boys, and her own baby is no longer a baby. He is a sailor, bless him, sailor on Guadalcanal. His name is Edwin Cobb and like us, Mrs. Cobb showed the latest pictures of her baby to her friends and that little tow-head with us. There was Miss Hollie Smith who taught him in the first grade.

And there was Mrs. Alma C. Morgan. Proud as punch. This member of the Central PTA—who sometimes teaches at the Central School—was the moving spirit behind last night's program. She got it up. And when the band started playing—playing those songs that took us back years and years—and when the program moved like clock-work. Well, she was pretty pleased.

Incidentally, she picked out the handsome, gold identification bracelet, and the bill fold—which contained folding money—which was presented to him by the principal, J.A. Smith. And, what is more, she collected the money for all of this.

As we said at the beginning—did you ever meet a hero? Well, when we met him yesterday afternoon, he looked just like the good kid he is. When he talked about his girl—Madolyn DiSesa—of Stamford, Conn. who incidentally will pretty soon be the "Mrs.," he was just like any young man talking about his girl. Incidentally, he has been negligent about letters—just like our favorite soldier and she got so worried up in Stamford, Conn. that yesterday she called us here at the paper, to find out if he was all right.

Well, as we said, yesterday afternoon he looked like a guy in uniform. But last night—last night when he walked in with the guard of honor from Nicholson Post of the American Legion here—he was every inch a soldier, every inch a hero. And when he stood to receive the plaudits of the crowd, when he stood at attention as the Star Spangled Banner was played—his face was so strong, so etched in strength—that he reminded you of some of the great men of other

years. As Mrs. Morgan said, "He looks something like Abe Lincoln."

Last night's celebration was the first held for this returned warrior—a fighter who was something of a one-man army, himself. And though he will be honored tonight—honored at The Patio by local labor groups with city, parish, and state officials—we are sure there will never be a more important program than that given last night by his own people—his own people of the Central Community—where he got his meagre schooling, through the seventh grade.

The children—the school children—from the little tots like our favorite—to the older ones who sang so beautifully some of our favorite songs, were agog last night's performance. They all crowded around Homer Wise to shake his hand, to ask his autograph. And we wish that you could have seen it. If there were any, there whose eyes were not wet when it was all over any body, certainly, who has some one in the war—well, we don't know their names. That program last night to honor Homer Wise—who, in turn, asked a silent prayer for the men overseas—would have taken you right to the front lines. Take our word for it. It did us and some 700 others.

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New School Design Nearing Final Okay



PBK Architects held the final School Design Charrette last Thursday at Kristenwood.



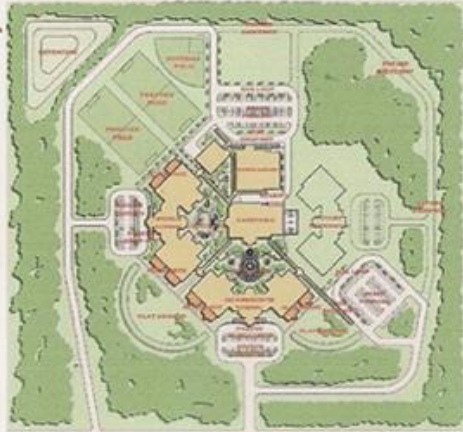
Among 75 participants were Ronnie Devall, Will Easley, Cyndi Ferris, and Rhonda Taylor.

CENTRAL — The final School Design Charrette for a new Central Middle School and new elementary was held last Thursday, and the Central school board appears to be moving toward adoption of the plan, which has resulted from charrettes held over the past two months.

The plan in its current form

envisions a school complex that would leave room for the addition of another elementary school at some time in the future.

PBK Architects, which has the architectural contract for the new schools, has conducted the charrettes, which are intended to bring school administrators, teachers, elected officials, and the general



PROPOSED Central school complex is taking shape after numerous public meetings

public into the process.

The school board will meet this Monday, Jan. 25 at 12 noon at

Kristenwood to review the latest plan, take testimony from the public, and adopt or reject the plan.

Homer Wise of Central: One of Most Decorated WWII Vets

Continued from Page 4

The Central community turned out in great numbers on the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1945, to honor Homer Wise.

Preston Morgan, 81, remembers the event clearly. He was 16 at the time. His mother, Alma C. "Ag"

Morgan took the lead in organizing the event. "She just felt something should be done to honor Homer Wise," he said.

As Preston remembers it, "The old gym was full and decorated with patriotic symbols. Everyone stood as Homer Wise walked down the aisle. There were speakers honoring him,

and we sang patriotic songs. It made quite an impression on a young man. Just 16 months later, Preston himself was in the U.S. Army."

Iris Walker was the same age as Preston Morgan and remembers the gym being packed, standing room only. "It was quite a thing to see. It's like a dream now."

The memory of Homer Wise has been adopted by Connecticut and the City of Stamford, Connecticut Gov. Jodi Reil recently inducted Homer into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. A park in Stamford is named in his honor, and now the Sgt. Homer L. Wise Memorial Committee is raising money for the bronze statue in his honor.

For more information on Homer Wise and what is being done to remember his heroism, go to www.sgt-homerwisememorial.org. Or, email

James Vlasto at h.l.wisememorial@gmail.com.

Mr. Vlasto recently represented Homer Wise when Homer was inducted into the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame in Abbeville.

This Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010, is the 65th anniversary of the great event honoring Homer Wise at the old Central High School gym.

The Central City News is inviting everyone who was there that night to meet this Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010, at 3 p.m. for a photograph in front of the old gym, which is located at Hooper at Sullivan. World War II veterans are also invited to come for a photo, along with friends and family.

There will be refreshments, and the entire event will be over within 30 minutes, so that everyone can go home to watch the Saints' playoff game at 5:30 p.m.

Academic All-State Honors for Lady Wildcats



Casey Brown



Alaina Miley

CENTRAL — The honors continue to roll in for seniors Casey Brown and Alaina Miley who were named to the 2009 Academic All-State Volleyball Team. The Academic All-State awards are given to the top scholar senior athletes of the state.

Brown was named Academic All-State Division II team with a 3.9523 non-weighted CPA through her high school career. Miley was named Division II honorable mention with a non-weighted 3.333 GPA.

These awards show that the Lady Wildcats are excelling in the classroom as well as on the court.



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