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Gretna Picayune News

Trail planner seeking information on bunkers

Thursday October 23, 2003

By Jean Perret

Plaquemines Parish abounds in history few other places can equal. At the beginning of Louisiana's roots, LaSalle claimed all of its territory for France more than 300 years ago. That set the stage for more historical events as time passed.

The latest scene of historical interest is a little-known place in Belle Chasse where 10 World War II bunkers rest. The area is isolated and well off the beaten path. It is because of this isolation that little information is known about the bunkers.

Katie Brasted, founder of Woodlands Trail and Park, has had a dream of creating the trail and park for several years and has worked diligently to achieve this goal. She has combed the West Bank from Algiers to Belle Chasse and beyond on horseback finding all kinds of treasures from the past and some beautiful places where nature has evaded modern technology.

Brasted hopes to combine historical sites along the trail with hiking, horseback riding, bird watching and other outdoor activities. The bunkers are on her list to be included. To that end, Brasted is seeking as much information as possible and asks that any residents who may have any knowledge about the bunkers, their age and how they were used, to contact her. She is also looking for volunteers to help make the trail a reality.

If anyone is interested in sharing their knowledge and would like to help preserve a piece of Plaquemines Parish, call Brasted at (504) 393-2666, or visit the Web site at www.woodlandstrail.com.

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Several years ago, my hairdresser was telling me about her daughter's experience with identity theft. I was fascinated with her story, mostly because I had never heard of this before.

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Well, it didn't take me long to figure out I didn't want that to happen to me, so I became paranoid about my personal information. I now have boxes and boxes filled with receipts, canceled checks and little scraps of paper, and honestly don't know what I'm supposed to do with them.

Identify theft can happen easily. For example, you may write a check, charge something on a credit card, make calls on your cell phone to your home, apply for credit or order new checks. These are everyday happenings that we don't think too much about.

But it is when you share this type of personal information about your bank and credit card account numbers that thieves step in to do their dirty deeds. The problems associated with this kind of theft cost victims more than a few phone calls. It takes a lot of time and money to remedy the damage done.

Federal Agent Claude Markham spoke about identity theft to a group of Neighborhood Watch coordinators in Belle Chasse. He handed out information printed from the U. S. Government's Web site at www.consumer.gov/idtheft/index.html that details identity theft, steps you can take to protect your credit and how this form of theft works.

It is something none of us can afford to ignore and well worth the effort to learn more about.

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The Thunderbirds are coming! When the Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base hosts the air show Nov. 1-2, the Air Force Thunderbirds will be the main attraction. This event draws thousands to Belle Chasse each year. Locals may want to consider the traffic when making plans during that time.

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Jean Perret is a Belle Chasse resident who writes about people and events of community interest. She can be reached at chasseing@aol.com or 394-4670.

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