



MAY/JUNE 2010

THE PITTMAN PRESS

THE PITTMAN FIRM, P.A.
432 MCKENZIE AVE
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401
Local: 784-9000
Chipley: 638-0600
Outside Panama City Area:
Toll Free—800-784-9001
Email: AskWes@pittmanfirm.com

Visit our website:
www.pittmanfirm.com
www.linkedin.com/in/wespittman



Wes Pittman

PREVENT IDENTIFY THEFT

I hope you had the opportunity to take advantage of the FREE shredding program that my firm sponsored Saturday, April 10th along with Shred-It®, WMBB and Knology. We had more than 175 participants drive up and many others walk up with bags and boxes of old paperwork to be shredded.



There were 2 Shred-It® trucks available making the wait time minimal. Many people expressed their appreciation for providing this valuable service realizing and understanding the devastating effects identify theft can have, not only on your credit but to your sense of personal safety.

Identify Theft affects an alarming number of people annually. It may be the result of your wallet being stolen or as simple as you throwing away mail that contains your personal information. Once your information gets into the wrong hands, it could take you months or even years to repair the damage done to your credit.

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Upcoming Events

MAY

7th-8th—Relay For Life at the Bay County Fairgrounds. Begins 5/7 @ 6pm, ends 5/8 @ 12pm. Fun and games for all. Benefits the American Cancer Society.

9th—Mother's Day

22nd—28th— National Safe Boating Week

24th—Memorial Day

JUNE

8th—Last Day of School

14th—Flag Day

20th—Father's Day

RELAY FOR LIFE—May 7th

The annual [Relay for Life of Panama City](http://www.relayforlife.org) event will take place on May 7th at the Bay County Fairgrounds. It is an life-changing event that gives communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people will be camped out at the fairgrounds and will take turns walking or running around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events and 18 hours in length. The Relay committee has lots of fun and games planned. Participating teams will also have food sales, silent auctions, merchandise and other great fundraisers going on throughout the event. Bring your friends and families and help support this very important event.

My firm will be participating and is sponsoring several raffle and silent auction items such as Exclusive Golf packages, Lady Anderson Dinner Cruise and much more. We will also be doing a special fundraiser offering tethered Hot Air balloon rides, weather permitting. **100% of the fundraising efforts will benefit the American Cancer Society.** For more information, call my office.



We respect your privacy. If you do not wish to receive this, let us know: Newsletter@pittmanfirm.com

Helping to keep your family informed!



(Continued from page 1) Identity Theft

There are programs designed to educate the public in taking steps to protect your identity. The Federal Trade Commission has a program “Deter, Detect, Defend” which provides tips for you to AVOID identify theft from happening to you or your family members. Five common ways used by thieves to steal your ID are Dumpster Diving, Skimming, Phishing, Changing Your Address and Stealing. Each are explained on their website—www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/.



Don't put your personal information in the hands of a thief. Destroy anything that has your information on it by shredding it before throwing it in the trash. Also, don't fall into the trap or become a victim by providing any of your personal information that may be requested by e-mail or solicited by phone. Read the brochure and educate yourself on how you can protect yourself and those you care about.

PRACTICE SAFE BOATING THIS SEASON

The warm weather is here, which many associate with outdoor activities such as swimming and boating. The [National Safe Boating Council](http://www.nsbtc.org) has named the week of May 22 through May 28th as National Safe Boating Week for 2010. Their goal is to promote safe boating by conducting a series of on-going national campaigns. Their website has a variety of safe boating courses, details of their safe boating campaigns and other resources to assist anyone wanting to enjoy their time on the water and stay safe at the same time.



All too often, there are reports of boating accidents. In 80% of all fatal boating accidents, the cause of death is drowning. In 90% of those drowning, the person was not wearing a life jacket. Even the best swimmer can get into trouble in rough waters especially if the accident results in an injury or if the person is knocked unconscious. Wearing a life jacket will keep you afloat until help arrives or you're able to recover enough to swim to a nearby floating object.

Life vests have come a long way since the bulky over the head devices were designed. Life vests are designed with the size and weight of the person wearing it in mind. It's important to read the recommendation to be sure you and your family members are wearing the appropriate size and type of life jacket. Putting a life vest on your child that is too large can result in them slipping out of it if tossed in the water unexpectedly. Wearing one designed for a lighter weight may not keep you afloat when you need it to. Each are designed for a purpose; general purpose would be sufficient in a pool setting whereas you would want to be sure your child is wearing a life vest suitable for boating if you intend on spending the day on the ocean with the family. Life vests range in price from relatively cheap to upwards of \$50 or more, it all depends



on the type of life jacket and its intended purpose. This is not an area to skimp or be looking for bargains when you make your decision to buy one. If taken care of, this investment will last a long time and may be responsible in saving your life one day.



Common sense is also important in all water sports. Avoid drinking alcohol when involved in water activities. Alcohol consumption while boating, swimming or water skiing simply do not mix so don't do it! Alcohol will affect your response time as well as affect your decision making when involving what could be a dangerous activity. Plan a family fun day on the water and take the necessary precautions to be sure everyone stays safe. Speak up if a family member or friend is creating an unsafe condition. Friends don't let friends drive—or swim drunk. Be smart, think first and have fun this summer.