



Ledford and East Davidson face off on the diamond.

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# THOMASVILLE TIMES

**Inside Today**

Business Columnist Marilyn Taylor offers Taylor Made advice on implementing change. See **BUSINESS**, Page 3

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## Operation Medicine Drop safely disposes drugs

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

Local law enforcement agencies are joining together in an effort to keep unused or outdated prescription medications off the street.

This Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Davidson County Sheriff's Office, along with the Thomasville, Lexington and Denton police departments, are conducting Operation Medicine Drop throughout the area where people can properly discard any old or leftover prescriptions so they won't end up in the wrong hands.

"This is an excellent opportunity for these law enforcement agencies to partner together and address a problem that is affecting our whole community," TPD Chief Jeff Insley said at a joint press conference Tuesday morning. "I think all of us, if you look in the medicine cabinet, have a bottle with a few pills left in it. These are the drugs that are re-circulating and getting into the hands of our kids. It's becoming a very prevalent problem."

There will be a total of seven drop-off locations in the county, including Thomasville Fire Department Station 2 at 815 N.C. Highway 109 South and Wallburg Fire Department at 121 Georgetown Road. Drop-offs also can be made at Arcadia Fire Department at 1374 Ruff Leonard Road in Lexington, Tyro Fire Department at 4646 N.C. Highway 150 South in Lexington, Lexington Fire Department Station 1 at 200 E. Center St., Southmont Fire De-

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## MAKING IT WORK



TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Philip Young sits on one of the work stations at his business, Carolina Safety Sport, in Thomasville. Like many other small business owners, he is struggling to increase output and manpower at his facility.

# Diversity, technology key to small business success

BY ELIOT DUKE  
Staff Writer

*Editor's note: The following is the second in a three-part series on the struggles of small businesses.*

Philip Young and Carolina Safety Sport have seen it all recently.

It wasn't all that long ago when a new contract left Young's company struggling to keep up manufacturing high visibility safety apparel for the state. Once that order finished, however, so did the rush to keep up, leaving Carolina Safety Sport much like every other small business — struggling.

"We're back to square one

**'[New technology] would give us more capabilities to be custom ... Custom businesses keep people working'**

— Philip Young  
Carolina Safety Sport

again," Young told members of the N.C. House Select Committee on Small Business last Thursday at Davidson County Community College. "The federal highway put some new requirements in place and our business took off. We couldn't keep up. Then, everybody got outfitted, the econo-

my came into play and we nosedived right back in the other direction. We're in the same boat as everybody else."

Young's needs didn't vary a common theme at last Thursday meeting, as a dozen state representatives heard the same story — small businesses need cash and affordable insurance amidst the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression. As one of the last remaining cut and sew operations in the state, Carolina Safety Sport's survival hinges on its ability to diversify and find new ways of doing business. Young is doing just that. Last month, Carolina Safety Sport partnered with H.T. Authentic Sportswear, a new

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## First Miss Thomasville receives new crown

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

The year was 1937.

Elizabeth Darr Litwin stood in glory as she was declared the first Miss Thomasville in what would become the longest-running pageant in the state of North Carolina. The youngwoman stood draped in her Miss Thomasville sash, clutching a bouquet of flowers, awaiting her crown.



Litwin

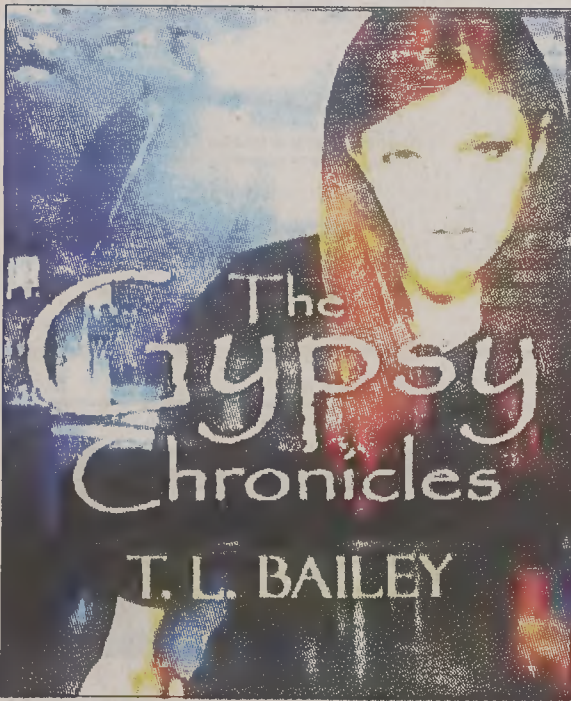
Her paper crown. "This just broke our heart," said Nile Goad, current executive director of the Miss Thomasville Scholarship Pageant. "What a nice gesture it would be if we could present her with a new preliminary crown."

And the organization did just that. At the 2010 Miss Thomasville pageant on Feb. 13, Goad and his associates presented Litwin with an honorary, real crown through the efforts of the Thomasville Pageant Committee and the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Committee.

"She was just overwhelmed," said long-time Thomasville resident Patricia Carroll, who works full-time at the Baptist Children's Home and part-time at Piedmont Crossing, where Litwin, now in her 90s, currently resides. "She was just really speechless."

The pageant Litwin competed in differed greatly from the one she attended

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COURTESY PHOTO

The 'Gypsy Chronicles' is the first in a five-part book series by local author T.L. Bailey.

# Childhood dream develops into fantasy novel

BY ERIN WILTGEN  
Staff Writer

The image blurred and then focused — a red-haired woman draped in a pale blue gown standing alone on a dock, silhouetted against black, turbulent clouds, gazing into the sea. At something. It's impossible to squint in a dream, but the vision sharpened anyway into three ships.

That picture — the only scrap she remembers from her childhood dream — followed Tammy Hall into adulthood, holding her in

such fascination even after all these years that it inspired her to write its story.

"I got these images in my head, and I just wanted to see how far it could go," Hall said. "It wasn't like I knew what the book was going to be about, but I wanted to write about this girl."

And the Gypsy Chronicles were born. Released on March 15 as the first in a five-book series, the Gypsy Chronicles also marks the first book the Thomasville



Hall

resident has published.

"It's like a dream come true," said Hall, 38, who goes by the pen name T.L. Bailey. "I keep feeling like I'm going to wake up any minute."

The book, set in the 1700s, stars a young girl named Gypsy who was born with a mark on her hand. She learns that she is the last known descendent of a race destined to protect mankind against an evil race, the Rudari, set to put hell on earth.

Also featuring a vampire and a host of pirates, the book echoes the science fiction and fantasy stories Hall loved in her younger days.

"I grew up, and I knew that I wanted to write something that I knew about," she said. "That's what I loved doing."

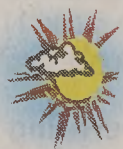
The time period came about through not only the style of dress worn by the woman in her dream but also from Hall's obsession with pirates. She said she

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