

The Florida Times-Union

jacksonville.com

THE MASTERS

SPORTS Will the return of warmer weather bring the return of the distinguished roars? B-1



SUNS' OWNERS MARK 25 YEARS WITH THE TEAM

SPORTS • B-1



THURSDAY • APRIL 9, 2009

75 CENTS

First Baptist, cop team up to out blogger



WILL DICKEY/The Times-Union

PASTOR CRITICIZED

Church gets subpoena for Google to reveal the blogger's identity.

COMPLAINT FILED

The blogger wants to know why his site was investigated by police.

By **JEFF BRUMLEY**
The Times-Union

A blogger critical of First Baptist Church Pastor Mac Brunson wants to know why his Web site was investigated by a police detective who is also a member of the minister's security detail.

Thomas A. Rich also wants the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to explain what suspected crimes led Detective Robert Hinson to open the probe into his once-anonymous Web site.

Rich also wants to know why Hinson revealed his name to the church despite finding no wrongdoing. Hinson obtained a subpoena from the State Attorney's Office requiring Google Inc. to reveal the author of the blog.

Rich's unmasking led to an eventual trespass warning banning the longtime member and his wife from First Baptist, despite the fact that Brunson and a top church administrator conceded the blog never threatened violence.

Rich said he mailed a complaint against Hinson to the Sheriff's Office on Tuesday. It had not been received as of Wednesday afternoon.

The intelligence detective opened the criminal investigation Sept. 29 into the identity and "possible criminal overtones" of the blog, fbcjaxwatchdog.blogspot.com.

The Sheriff's Office and church officials defended the complaint and investigation into Rich's blog, which Hinson concluded Nov. 13.

Undersheriff Frank Mackesy said Hinson's role posed no conflict of interest because his duties include handling

BLOG continues on A-7

HOW THEY FOUND HIM

In late 2008, Jacksonville Sheriff's Detective Robert Hinson opened an investigation into the identity of an anonymous blogger who had been critical of his pastor, the Rev. Mac Brunson (right) at First Baptist Church. The blogger complains it was a conflict of interest for Hinson to investigate an incident involving his own church. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office said Hinson did nothing wrong. A brief look at how events unfolded.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 09/29/2008, at 1430 hours, the complainant John Blount reported an on going internet incident that has possible criminal overtones. (Investigation Continuing)

Clearance Status: INFORMATION REPORT

INITIAL REPORT

Sept. 29: The Rev. John Blount files a report citing "an ongoing Internet incident that has possible criminal overtones."

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM
S. A. NO. 08SA105896AD
Division: Special Prosecution

TO:
GOOGLE, INC.
ATTENTION: CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS
1600 AMPHITHEATRE PARKWAY
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA 94043

SUBPOENA ISSUED

Late September, early October: Hinson is granted a subpoena requiring Google Inc. to provide all information, including names, screen names and address, of the anonymous writer of fbcjaxwatchdog.blogspot.com.

INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 11/13/2008, this investigation was closed after no criminal activity was discovered on this reported incident.

Clearance Status: INFORMATION REPORT

INVESTIGATION CLOSED

Nov. 13: Finding no criminal activity, Hinson closes the investigation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On November 25, 2008, the Administration of First Baptist Church issued a trespass warning to the listed individuals for church misconduct. The omitted information is a direct result of not being able to interview the subjects after the warning was issued.

Reporting Officers: C.R.BUTLER

TRESPASS WARNING

Nov. 25: Having been informed by Hinson of the blogger's identity, First Baptist issues a trespass warning against Thomas Rich and his wife.

JEA rates will go down, up, then ...

The board is weighing cutting its fuel rate, but its operational charge is likely to climb.

By **DAVID HUNT**
The Times-Union

Utility-bill relief may be more of a roller coaster this fall.

JEA is considering decreasing its monthly customer fuel charge by nearly \$8 in October if commodity prices stay down.

But a 2007 vote to help pay down the city-owned utility's mounting debt has the base rate destined to jump \$5.50 at the same time.

The two rates combine to make up the bulk of electricity bills. The fuel charge goes toward the cost of electricity-generating fuels, such as coal and natural gas, and the base rate pays operational costs.

JEA once prided itself on having the cheapest electricity rates in Florida. That changed during the summer as coal and natural gas prices shot skyward amid scrambles to provide energy in rapidly developing nations such as China and India.

When the global economy went bust months later, demand for electricity-generating fuels dropped as consumers watched consumption and cut down on bills, said Stephen Scott, an analyst with the U.S. Department of Energy.

While trying to lock in inexpensive prices, JEA wound up paying above

JEA continues on A-7

Without guns, crew takes ship from pirates

But the ship's captain remains a hostage even as U.S. Navy warships steam into the area.

By **KATHARINE HOURELD**
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — In a riveting high-seas drama, an unarmed American crew wrested control of their U.S.-flagged cargo ship from Somali pirates Wednesday and sent them fleeing to a lifeboat with the captain as hostage.

The destroyer USS Bainbridge, one of a half dozen warships that headed for the area, arrived at the scene Thursday morning a few hours before dawn, said Kevin Speers, a spokesman for the company that owns the Maersk Alabama. He said the boat with the pirates was floating near the ship, the first with an American crew to be taken by pirates off the Horn of Africa.

Speers said officials were waiting to see what happens when the sun comes up. Crew members had been negotiating with the pirates for the captain's return.

A family member said Capt. Richard Phillips surrendered himself to the pirates to secure the safety of the crew.

Details of the day's events emerged sporadically as members of the crew were reached by satellite phone, provid-

PIRATES continues on A-7

Navy commits to unmanned vehicles in a big way

Jacksonville bases will be on the cutting edge as unmanned aerial Fire Scout is unveiled.

By **TIMOTHY J. GIBBONS**
The Times-Union

The members of Navy Helicopter Squadron Light 42's seventh detachment would be busy enough this time of year anyway, as the pilots and maintainers work toward an upcoming deployment.

But on top of the other work the May-

port Naval Station-based detachment has to do, it has a second job: Helping the Navy roll out the Fire Scout, the service's newest unmanned aerial system, the first with rotary wings.

"We're essentially working side-by-side with the testers," said Lt. Cmdr. Bob Williams, officer in charge of the detachment. "We're helping write all the things that usually we'd be reading."

The detachment took on the new duty last year, putting it at the forefront of the Navy's burgeoning unmanned aerial

NAVY continues on A-7



The Navy's Fire Scout launches into its flight test program at the Naval Air Forces Western Test Range Complex in California.

Provided by U.S. Navy

WEATHER • A-2

High 78 Low 45
Mostly sunny and warmer.



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TALK BUSINESS ONLINE

BUSINESS Social networks can grow business D-1

METRO Old trash contract stirs fresh debate C-1

METRO Religious tune in school now in court C-1



CONTESTS

We've got tickets to An Horse and REO Speedwagon. Go to Jacksonville.com/contests to enter for your chance to win.