

**briefly**

**Man takes plea deal in Belvedere molestation case**

A former St. Hilary School caregiver pleaded guilty Jan. 6 to the statutory rape of a Belvedere teen he first met while she was a student at the Tiburon school.

Max Rubinstein, 26, of San Anselmo also pleaded guilty to using a minor to pose in sexually explicit images and of possession of child pornography, the Marin Independent Journal reported Monday at The Ark's press time.

Rubinstein was arrested last January on allegations that he forced the girl, who had since moved on to high school, to perform oral sex several times a month between December 2010 and November 2011 — under threat of harm to her and her family — when she was 15 and 16 years old.

Belvedere police launched the investigation with the help of other regional agencies after the girl's father reported disturbing messages on her Facebook account. Authorities say Rubinstein admitted guilt and apologized during a police-supervised telephone sting they coordinated with her.

Rubinstein was initially charged on 23 counts, later reduced to five. His sentencing is set for March 11, according to the IJ.

**inside**

**LOCAL MAKES FORBES' TOP 30 UNDER 30**

Cigall Kadoch, 28, has been named to Forbes Magazine's list for science and health care for her research into the changes in the physical structures in cells. The work could lead to new understandings of particular cancers — and potential new treatments.

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JOCELYN KNIGHT PHOTOS / FOR THE ARK

**Ed Nute (rear right), Marin Audubon Society area leader for the Tiburon Peninsula, Stacy Pogorzelski (front) and Gena Pogorzelski identify and count birds off the pier at Paradise Park during the annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 28.**

## Birders brave near-freezing temperatures for annual count



**A scrub jay with an acorn in Paradise Park.**

By **DIANE SMITH**

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A crisp, bright dawn broke Dec. 28 as a group of nine birders descended on Blackie's Pasture, ready to spend a Saturday tallying the local numbers and species as part of the National Audubon Society's 114th annual Christmas Bird Count.

The first thing district leader Ed Nute, a bird-counting veteran of 16 years,

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## Hearing on fate of ferry draws near

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**

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Local Angel Island ferry riders, take heed: The California Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a public forum to take comment on "the best way to provide ferry service to and from Angel Island State Park" at 6 p.m. Jan. 16 at the Mill Valley Recreation Center, 180 Camino Alto Blvd., Mill Valley.

Although the forum is billed as a sort of brainstorming session, it's no secret that the parks department has already decided to put the

ferry service concession up for bid this year, a situation that poses a threat to the Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry Company, the family-run ferry service that has been in Tiburon native Capt. Maggie McDonogh's family for generations.

State parks officials could award the contract to another company.

After digesting the public comments from the Jan. 16 meeting, the state plans to issue a request for proposals for all ferry routes to the island; service from San Francisco, Oakland

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# Treasures of the Tiburon Peninsula

In this second week of the New Year, The Ark highlights a handful of peninsula treasures: accomplished residents who have committed much of their lives in service to local and larger communities through their professional and avocational endeavors. An artist, a pianist and a retired historian, all teachers. A state legislator, and a local mover and shaker. These are the stories of some of the events and moments of epiphany that, for each, shaped a lifelong sense of purpose.

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 Joseph Bloom 10 · Roger Felton 11  
 Elisabeth Gleason 12*

## Crosswalk users near Cove may get more notice of changing lights

By **DEIRDRE McCROHAN**

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Caltrans officials say they will consider installing a countdown signal for pedestrians, cyclists and others trying to cross Tiburon Boulevard near The Cove Shopping Center.

Caltrans Office of Traffic Chief Roland Au-Yeung said he isn't making promises but, after an Ark inquiry, agreed to kickstart a study into a timer so those crossing between Blackfield Drive to the north and Greenwood Cove Drive to the south would know how much time is left before the traffic light changes at the signaled intersection.

If Caltrans decides the countdown display is warranted, it will still have to put the project through its

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