

## Bartlett's News Briefs



# NOT JUST ANYBODY

community-sponsored stories

by Pacifican Jean Bartlett, longtime Bay Area News Group writer

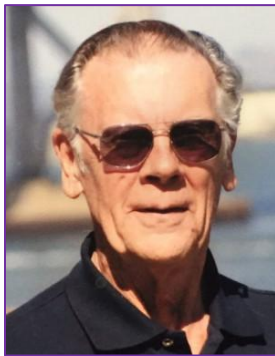
**For 12 weeks in the New Year, five Pacificans, all veterans, answer a Question on the Street**

When I wrote features for the printed *Pacifica Tribune*, for many years that also included a question on the street – *Bartlett's Bullets*. It's interesting to hear what our neighbors think. I've asked five people, all veterans and members of the Pacifica American Legion, to answer a question each week for 12 weeks. The purpose is not to stir up annoyed responses from people who are not part of this group, but to just have a listen to what someone else is willing to share. It is also to encourage community dialogue.

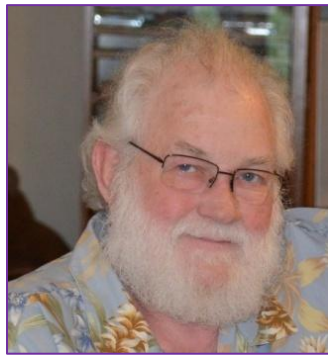
**Date: February 3, 2026**

**Question 5: What are your recommendations for places to eat at, and/or pick up food from, in Pacifica and why?**

**Answerers:**



Robert Biby



Ed Clements



Jay Crawford



Allan Hale



Greg Stepanenko

**Robert Biby.** (Served: United States Marine Corps)

I like the Reuben at Colombo's Delicatessen in Pacific Manor. It's just good. In Rockaway, there are three restaurants that I frequent and they are: Nick's, Moonraker and Breakers. At Nick's, their seared sea scallops that are served with mashed potatoes I always enjoy, and the sauce they serve with those sea scallops is great. When they have halibut as the specialty of the day, I order that and I order it rare, because that lets that halibut be done, before it dries, and it is superb. At the Moonraker, I've had all good meals but I especially enjoy their slow cooked pot roast. I've heard about their grilled salmon pinwheel which is stuffed with at least artichokes and lentils. I know in advance that I will enjoy that. At Breakers for breakfast, my go-to is their "Meaty" omelet. It's got ham, bacon and sausage, onions, mushrooms, sour cream and cheese. If I don't order that, I'll have two eggs with one of their waffles. Their menu has everything under the sun and it's all good. I better mention the prime rib at the Vallemar Station. It's good elsewhere in Pacifica, but I think it is slightly better there because it is a little thicker slice and the bone is in it. The only problem is, once I finish using my fork and knife on it, I want to pick up the bone and chew every last bite off of it. But, if there are families with children sitting nearby, I won't eat with my fingers in front of them. I don't want to be responsible for teaching questionable table manners!

Kenny's Cafe on Crespi is always a backup for me. It's not on their menu but they always have it, and it is filet of sole and they make it breaded and they serve it with tartar sauce. That's a favorite. I also enjoy their prime rib. Their new chef really knows how to cook pork chops perfectly and that is also a favorite.

I haven't tried Go Sushi in Eureka Square but I have heard it is the spot to go to for Japanese food and that it is particularly excellent for sushi. I do enjoy Taco Bell on the beach. I'll stop for a burrito or a couple of tacos. It's just a beautiful spot. For pizza, I enjoy Round Table in the Linda Mar Shopping Center. My favorite is the King Arthur Supreme. It has, at least: pepperoni, sausage, salami, mushrooms, onions and their red sauce on it. It's very satisfying. And let's end with, there is only one bakery in town and I will brave the long lines, whenever I am in the north end of town, to pick up apple fritters at Mazzetti's Bakery.

**Ed Clements.** (Served: United States Navy)

My favorite restaurants that I am happy to recommend are: Sunrise Cafe and Grill in the Linda Mar Shopping Center for breakfast; Luigi's Italian Restaurant on Linda Mar Blvd.; Kenny's Cafe in the Crespi Shopping Center; The Shore Shack in Rockaway; Breakers, also in Rockaway; Guerrero's Taqueria in Vallemar; Camelot Fish and Chips in Manor; and Must Be Dumpling in the Linda Mar Shopping Center. These are all really good.

Amando Maya, who owns Sunrise Cafe with his wife Maria, used to be the cook at the Main Street Grill in Half Moon Bay. He bought the Pacifica business after the former owner retired back in 2014, and they have been running it since. Fantastic coffee, the best coffee in town, I love it. I usually get three eggs, hashed browns and I switch between bacon and linked sausage, and it is all cooked just right. The people are fantastic and the service is excellent. It is also a place that serves as a constant reminder of just how friendly people are in Pacifica. Over the years, to my surprise, someone I don't know, just one of their many customers, has bought my breakfast just because I was wearing my Navy cap which has the name of the ship I served on during the Vietnam War, the USS Ponchatoula. This has happened four or five times. Someone will ask me, "When did you serve?" We have a short conversation and then my wife and I head over to our table. It just happened two weeks ago. I told our waitress we were ready for our ticket and she said to me, "The people at Table 6 paid for your breakfast." I said, "Whoa – that was nice!" The people at Table 6 didn't know me from Adam and they didn't know what I was going to order. But they got my ticket and paid for it.

We've been going to Luigi's forever, and when Luigi passed, we said, "Well, we're going to see if the food is just as good as it was." It is. The guy that has taken it over and is running it, he worked for Luigi since Luigi opened the restaurant. He told us, "I grew up with Luigi and I hope I can make it go." Well, he is doing a great job. I often have one of my top choices which is chicken parmesan and he makes it perfectly.

We were just at Kenny's Friday night which is Chinese and American cuisine, and the owner May, she and her family always take good care of their customers. But dinner for two should really say, dinner for four! We had the shrimp fried rice, their sweet and sour chicken, chow mein, wonton soup, which is so good, and hot tea. We ate all that we could hold on Friday night. I took the remainder home and had it again on Saturday for lunch, and Sunday night I finished off my shrimp fried rice. It's a great deal and the prices are fantastic. If you order take out, May tells you when it will be ready and it is ready.

The Shore Shack just opened up and we have been there twice. The same people that own it, own Breakers. It's the only place in town where I know I can get a hot dog. The first time I was there, I had clam chowder and a BLT which was excellent. They also have great service. We really like it. As to Breakers, it is just plain good. They have good coffee, and a good breakfast which provides you with way more than you imagined. They also serve an excellent lunch, so many choices, and their community loves them.

Guerrero's Taqueria, whether you get it to go or eat it there, is always good. I like most everything, but I usually get a burrito which is enough for two. Camelot's Fish and Chips has been there forever because it is fantastic. It's by the butcher shop Save More Meat – which, by the way, is my favorite place to pick up beef.

Must Be Dumpling is a little hidden gem in town. Very good food, the people are very gracious and the prices are reasonable. My daughter introduced me to it. They've got homemade dumplings – shrimp dumplings, pork dumplings, chicken dumplings – and steamed BBQ pork buns, pot stickers, noodles, soups and a lot more. It's really a treat.

**Jay Crawford.** (Served: United States Army)

I believe each place I mention here is a family-owned, mom and pop-type business – but all of them have very friendly, very kind people working there. Let's begin the day with coffee. I have a bunch of picks here. I'll start with the Chit-Chat Cafe in Pacific Manor and the Chit-Chat at the Pacifica Pier in Sharp Park. They both have good coffee and nice things to eat and ocean views. In the summer on the weekends, the Chit-Chat at the Pier often has an outside barbecue going on. The one on Manor, all year, has live music on the weekends. For coffee, I also like the Golden Sol Wellness Bar on Palmetto in Sharp Park – and you can find some really tasty treats there. The Perfect Pour on Francisco at Clarendon, in Sharp Park, that's another favorite of mine. Their Mexican mocha is incredible and their food is yummy.

For a more formal breakfast, I am absolutely going to Breakers in Rockaway. I love their Roadhouse chili omelet. Nick's Restaurant opens later for breakfast. But you can't go wrong with any meal at Nick's and their breakfast is excellent. I also like Sharp Park Restaurant at the Golf Course. Their food is fantastic and their waitress, Flor, is just a wonderful person.

If I decide I need a pastry to start the day, or some kind of dessert any time of the day, I'm going to Mazzetti's Bakery. It should be world famous. Their pastries and cakes and breads are of the highest quality. It's like going back in time with their prices. I'm really partial to their focaccia bread.

If I am going to pick up a sandwich, I'm going to Colombo's in Pacific Manor. Their sandwiches are the best as far as I am concerned, and from Colombo's there are so many places you can go to nearby to

watch the ocean and enjoy your lunch, where you might see whales, or paragliders, or hang gliders, or all of them. I'm going to get a turkey with provolone cheese on one of their homemade breads and all their choices of condiments – and I'm going to add black olives to it – delicious! I would also recommend Guerrero's Taqueria on Reina Del Mar for lunch. It's just plain good and the service is fast.

For dinner, I like Taqueria Pacifica on Francisco at Carmel in Sharp Park. I am especially partial to their cheese enchiladas or their tamales. For Italian food, Viva Italiano in Pacific Manor has got great food, and I am a huge fan of their calzone. I do love Luigi's in the Adobe Shopping Center in Linda Mar. Luigi, who passed recently, was such a wonderful man and those that worked for him have kept it open and it remains so good. If you love Breakers, you are going to love The Shore Shack in Rockaway for lunch or dinner. It's run by the same great family and the quality of food is terrific.

If I want to be fancy, I will go to either Nick's or the Vallemar Station. Most of the people I go with to Nick's have their famous grilled crab sandwich. I am partial to their Big Juicy hamburger on the grilled Wedemeyer sourdough. It is so delicious. At the Vallemar Station, I am going to get a steak. They make it perfectly. The Vallemar Station was built in 1908 when the Ocean Shore Railroad opened up this part of the coast to people who were looking for a place to live. It was one of the station stops and it has a great deal of our photographic history inside.

For Chinese food I'm going to go to Kenny's Cafe on Crespi – the food and the prices are fabulous. May Szeto runs the show and she is a tremendous person. For Japanese food, I particularly enjoy Uoyakutei Japanese Restaurant on the Coast Highway in Rockaway. I've also got to mention Oceana Market in Sharp Park. They have all kinds of unbelievably good food items to pick up.

**Allan Hale.** (Served: United States Coast Guard)

Nick's Restaurant in Rockaway is the crown jewel of Pacifica, with Chuck Gust carrying out the family traditions. It has classic, elegant dining. It also has dancing. It provides the ideal setting for formal meetings and it has a fantastic view of the Pacific, which is why the best of the best come! Nick's also provides support to many community activities. Whatever you order at Nick's, it is going to be good.

I do like Kenny's Cafe on Crespi. May and her husband Ping offer a fantastic combination of Chinese food as well as American dishes. I've got a number of favorites, but they include their pot stickers and their prime rib. May and her family support many community activities and they are very kind with our nonprofits. May was recently honored by the City for her outstanding support of our community.

Sharp Park Restaurant at the Golf Course, with their terrific, head waitress Flor Medina, provides a great variety of traditional home-style meals. It's all really tasty, but when they have stew on the menu, that's what I'm getting. It's really good. The ocean and the golf course are within view, and they provide an excellent dining room for special events.

I think Camelot Fish and Chips on West Manor Drive in Manor, provides possibly the best seafood at a reasonable cost. It's good for dining in or takeout, it's got old-world charm and for me, their oysters and chips are especially fantastic.

Goodfellas Pizza and Pasta in the Park Mall Shopping Center, that's where I go for pizza, and I'm ordering their pepperoni pizza or their anchovy pizza. Luigi's on Linda Mar is fantastic for Italian food. It's run now by Vincent Brew and he used to be one of my Scouts in Troop 264. That's how long I've known him. But he knows what he is doing. It is really good. Their linguine with garlic pesto sauce is one of my favorites.

**Greg Stepanenko.** (Served: United States Navy)

My first mention is Tam's Cuisine of China in Manor. It is a little pricey but it is very good. I do like their orange chicken and we always get a double order of pot stickers. Then there is Breakers. I meet with my sister once a month for breakfast or lunch there. My number one breakfast order is their bacon waffle, which I also get with two eggs over easy and of course with butter and syrup. I also like to order ham and eggs with hash browns. I've ordered other things as well and have never been disappointed. Now the owners of Breakers also own The Shore Shack. It's new and I haven't been there yet but I've heard nothing but good things about it and will go.

Nick's in Rockaway is a favorite of ours. We love their garlic bread. It's almost too good and I will never leave any leftover "Nick's" garlic bread I see behind! I do like their prime rib. It's cooked just the way you like it.

There is Mazzetti's Bakery, which is the only bakery in town, but as far as I'm concerned it's the only bakery in the Bay Area. Their pumpkin pie is second to none. Every time we go to one of our daughters, we bring Mazzetti's pumpkin pie. If we forgot it, our daughter would still let us in but I'm not sure our son-in-law would!

There is Kenny's Restaurant. I like Kenny's and I like the owner, May – really a nice person. The food is quite good and it is not as expensive as Tam's. I like to get their beef with vegetables and fried rice, with the gravy mixed into it. It's really good. Every other Friday, they have prime rib. It's good and it's \$30, which is very reasonable. My wife Joan loves their beef yum-yum soup.

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**By Jean Bartlett** (February 3, 2026)

*Writer Jean Bartlett was recognized by the Board of Supervisors, County of San Mateo, for "her writing that connects community and preserves local history." She can be contacted through her website, [www.bartlettbiographies.com](http://www.bartlettbiographies.com). This article was anonymously sponsored.*