

# Empty bowls

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Salem Harvestrescues fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste and distributes it to those in need through a handful of organizations.

The Oregon Food Bank has a statewide network of 21 regional food banks and more than 1,200 assistance sites. On average, 260,000 people utilize the Oregon Food Bank's network every month, including more than 46,000 adults and children accessing Marion Polk Food Share sites.

These nonprofits are dedicated to fighting hunger in Oregon, which is why they were chosen as the beneficiaries of Willamette Valley Woodturners' Empty Bowls benefit.

Burt said community fundraisers are critical to the continuation of their mission, helping them connect with the public through events like Empty Bowls.

"To have a community group come in like this ... that likes what we are doing," he said. "We couldn't do (what we do) without it."



Using a rotating machine for shaping wood, known as a lathe, they rough out the blanks and leave them slightly thicker than normal so they can dry.

complete them with a food-safe finish.

"(Woodturning) is creative," Tataryn said. "It's art, but at the same time, it is functional. You take away everything away that isn't a bowl, and what is left is a little artistic expression of yourself."

## Creating art for a purpose

This will be the second Empty Bowls event hosted by Willamette Valley Woodturners. The first was five years ago, also benefiting Farmers Ending Hunger, before the

club became a nonprofit.

Willamette Valley Woodturners has about 110 members ranging in age from 15 to 93 and is a regional chapter of the American Association of Woodturners.

Zens said they have an annual project that involves the whole club, benefits the community and, hopefully, generates interest in woodturning for the public.

Over several years, he said they've created 1,000 wood pens distributed to troops overseas through The Freedom Pens Project and wood boxes for the youth hospital pro-



The Willamette Valley Woodturners, a local nonprofit club of woodturning enthusiasts, make bowls for an Empty Bowls fundraiser next year for hunger relief.

PHOTOS BY MADELEINE COOK/STATESMAN JOURNAL

gram Beads of Courage.

At their first Empty Bowls event, the Willamette Valley Woodturners made 74 bowls and raised about \$3,000.

For 2020, they want to raise the bar by aiming for 150 bowls of soup/salad, serving and "exceptional art" varieties. And, now as a nonprofit, they can write tax-deductible receipts for cash donations.

Their event differs from other Empty Bowls events in Salem, like the one hosted at the Willamette Art Center, where people can pick and

choose bowls to buy. Instead, the Willamette Valley Woodturners will host an Empty Bowls dinner. People who purchase a ticket in advance will get a soup/salad bowl and a meal.

There will also be a silent auction and program about how the funds raised contribute to these organization's hunger relief efforts in Oregon.

Sharon McFadden, the food resource developer at Oregon Food Bank, works directly with Farmers Ending Hunger. She said in 2018, their ef-

forts provided food for more than 1.7 million meals to families across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

"These incredible farmers, ranchers and food processors are among our strongest partners," McFadden said. "We couldn't be more grateful to have them with us in the fight to end hunger and its root causes."

The Willamette Valley Woodturners meet at Center 50+ in Salem the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Those interested in the club or more information can reach out to wvwtturners@gmail.com.

Abby Luschei is the arts and entertainment reporter for the Statesman Journal and can be reached at aluschei@statesmanjournal.com or 503-399-6747. Follow her on Twitter @abbyluschei or facebook.com/luscheiabby.

Interested in telling at one of the upcoming Salem Storytellers Project events? Submit your story: [www.storytellersproject.com/tell](http://www.storytellersproject.com/tell).

## Obituaries

### 'An artistic expression of yourself'

Taking something naturally grown and creating something functional is at the heart of Willamette Valley Woodturners.

The club's preparation starts with finding a wood source, which is usually donated, and cutting it into bowl-shaped "rounds."

Using a rotating machine for shaping wood, known as a lathe, they rough out the blanks and leave them slightly thicker than normal so they can dry.

The club hosted its first "sawdust session" at vice president Darcy Tataryn's Turner home in mid-October.

About a dozen people spent the day harvesting blanks from logs — a process involving a lot of chainsaws, wood and teamwork. After hours of chipping away at individual tasks, they ended the session with a little less than 100 bowl blanks.

After several months, they will round the blanks again, sand and

### Ethel Marie Montgomery

OREGON CITY - Ethel Marie (Scheve) Montgomery was born Dec. 19, 1927, in Atwood, KS to Clemens and Mary (Walsh) Scheve. At age eight the family moved to Forest Grove and then settled in McMinnville, where she graduated from St. James Catholic School and McMinnville High School. In 1948, she married a Saint, Harry Montgomery. They had three children; Michael (Christine), Patric (Lisa), and Rebecca (Bob) Steed, numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Harry and Ethel enjoyed almost 70 years of marriage until Harry had the audacity "to up and die on her". She liked to dance, play cards, travel, go to casinos, enjoyed happy hour, and gardening. Ethel was unique and a character. She was sharp-minded and sharp-tongued, but you always knew where she stood on any subject. She was LOVED. Her last three years were spent in her villa at Berry Park, where she terrorized many with her electric scooter. Many feet and shins are happy she is no longer driving, she left a legacy of "Ethel" stories. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Oregon City. Donations can be made in her name to Bristol Hospice. Arrangements entrusted with Hillside Chapel





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### Raymond John Bielemeier

MT. ANGEL - Raymond John Bielemeier  
May 15, 1924- November 8, 2019

Raymond John Bielemeier, a lifelong resident of Mt. Angel, Oregon, passed away on November 8th, 2019, at the age of 95. Ray was born on May 15th, 1924, the first of 5 children, to George and Anna (Klein) Bielemeier. Growing up on the family berry farm instilled in Ray the work ethic he carried with him throughout his life. Ray attended high school at Mt. Angel Abbey Prep School, graduating in the Class of 1942. Although baseball was Ray's favorite teen-age leisure time activity, he was drawn into helping his Uncles Jack and Matt build houses at a young age, which led him into starting his own business in and around the Mt. Angel area. His natural talent showed in his fine craftsmanship of not only building homes, but of designing the plans, and building the custom cabinets for his clients, many of whom were lifelong friends and family. Ray's fine handiwork can be seen all around Mt. Angel.

In 1946, Ray married Marian Konen at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mt. Angel. After their honeymoon to Yellowstone National Park, they moved into the home where they spent their 73 years of marriage while raising their 4 children, Nick, Char, Gregg and John, and hosting many holiday gatherings, birthday parties, picnics and other social and church events. Their home was always comfortable and guests were always welcome, day or night. As a young father, Ray worked very hard to make sure that Marian could stay home to nurture the growing children. There was always time, however, for many family adventures such as traveling to Crater Lake in their '58 Ford Wagon, annual camping trips with friends and family to Three Creeks Lake, fishing on the Metolius River, goose hunting at Summer Lake, and many opening days of fishing on the Abiqua or at Suttle Lake. When time allowed, Ray would be in his woodshop building furniture and cabinets for his family, toys for the kids' Christmases and birthdays, and birdhouses and flower boxes for the yard and garden, even elaborate stage sets for the high school plays. His ongoing project of making willow walking canes continued into his 90s. His plan to remodel their own home was a work in progress, many times set aside to help someone else in the community to remodel or build a home.

If Ray wasn't tending to a building project, he was enjoying his hobbies of horseback riding, fishing, gardening, and reading his favorite Louis L'Amour western novels. From 1969-1979, he was blessed with six Grandsons and one



Granddaughter, and he made each of them feel as if they were his favorite. They all loved his tender ways and his great sense of humor. Almost twenty years later, he would endear himself in the same way to his fourteen Great Grandchildren. Ray went out of his way to connect with friends and neighbors, never too busy for a smile and a chat. He loved getting together with friends once a week at the Burger Time Cafe to talk about all the important local news over a cup of coffee. Ray's community activities revolved around St. Mary's Church, where he was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus. When the earthquake of 1993 damaged much of St. Mary's Church, Ray's valuable advice and expertise came to the forefront when important decisions about repairing and rebuilding needed to be made. After he "retired" from building homes, Ray became the Maintenance Technician for St. Mary's parish, in charge of the upkeep of the buildings and the grounds, putting to use many of the technical skills he had learned over the previous 70 years. In their later years, Ray and Marian made frequent fishing trips to Central Oregon and the Oregon Coast. They enjoyed traveling around the U.S. visiting relatives, exploring family birthplaces in Idaho and Minnesota, and experiencing the sights of Disneyland.

Ray Bielemeier lived a full and blessed life. His achievements were done quietly and without the desire for recognition. He was a man of deep faith, a unique blend of hard work, loyalty, kindness, generosity, honesty, humility and humor. In his last days, he accepted his illness with grace, and was surrounded with love and support from his family, his friends and his church, all saying "Well done, good and faithful servant".

The family wishes to thank the staff at Providence Benedictine Nursing Center for the end-of-life care given to Ray in his last days.

Ray is survived by his beloved wife of 73 years, Marian; his son Nick (wife Pam) of Hood River; his daughter, Char Arritola (husband Rick) of Mt. Angel; his son Gregg of Portland; his son John (wife MaryKay) of Gearhart; Grandchildren Lance, Troy, Eric and Brad Arritola; Josh Bielemeier; Carmen (Bielemeier) Tuttle; and Aaron Bielemeier; 14 Great Grandchildren; two Great-Great Grandchildren; his sister, MaryAnn Havlik of Mt. Angel; sister-in-law, Joan Bielemeier of Sublimity. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Anna Bielemeier, his brothers Joe, Jim, and Arnie; brothers-in-law Bob Havlik, sisters-in-law Rita Bielemeier, and Virginia Bielemeier.

Following the praying of the Rosary at 10:30 a.m., a mass will be held at St. Mary's Church in Mt. Angel, on Saturday, December 14, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow at the Parish Center.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Ray's memory can be sent to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mt. Angel, designated for church maintenance projects. Arrangements are under the direction of Unger Funeral Chapel in Mt. Angel.