

Wednesday, June 04, 2008

Seneca's world is its oyster, even in pounding rain and hail (video)

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Blue Mountain Eagle

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Eagle photos/David Heldreth
Mike Browning and Brady Long man the grill at the Seneca Oyster Feed. More photos in Section B. Also, visit www.myeaglenews.com for a video of the event.

SENECA - Not even mother nature could keep the crowds away from Seneca last weekend.

The 17th annual Seneca Oyster Feed was a success despite the weather. The day started off nice, but by 10 a.m. the sky had filled with dark clouds, and the rain and hail began to fall. Sheltered under tents and tarps, the crew of volunteers cooked oysters while the softball teams continued to play through the rain. Only the golf tournament was delayed.

A 100-yard-long line of people waited for oysters in the rain. The line stayed that long for nearly an hour as people continued to filter in, and the sky began to lighten up about 2 p.m.

Carmen Turner, who helped organize the event, said they served between 500 and 600 people.

"I think in spite of the weather, it went really well," organizer John Saunders said. "We have a bunch of tough people who come out."

The oyster feed drew people from Bend, Boise and points beyond. Longtime Grant County residents Rickerd and Carol Raymond, now of Mt. Vernon, made their first trip to the event this year.

Rickerd went to elementary school in Seneca, but his family moved to Mt. Vernon in 1942.

"I'm really glad we got to come," Rickerd said. "We've been



Chris Gibson fishes a bottle out of the river during the annual race that sends Bud bottles sailing downstream.

trying to get to the oyster feed for years, but I always had to work or something came up.

"I went to school here, but a lot has changed. I can remember getting gas for 32 cents here in Seneca."

There was plenty of action on the Sylvies River during the oyster feed. Adam Kahler and Tommy Parker earned first place in the men's canoe races. Jordon Warker and Connor Smith took second place. Tonnya Seebart and Dawn Crafts won the women's race. Cheryl Harrod won the \$500 prize for the Bud bottle river race.

The golfers and softball players wrapped up their games on Sunday. The team of Matt Goin, Jesse McManus, Stephen Lundbom and Ron Lundbom finished two under par, 32, to win the golf tournament. Ken Ellison, Andy Radinovich, Lance Woodcock, Ryan McLellan and Bob McConnell were second place with a 33. Dennis Rexroad and Patty Davidson had the longest drives of the day, and Ken Ellison had the closest shot to the pin. A team from Burns won the softball tournament and a Boise team took second place.