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The Red-Headed Stranger Returns To The Villages

Country legend Willie Nelson plays his biggest hits during concert Wednesday at The Sharon.

By MICHAEL FORTUNA
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Willie Nelson played a little more than an hour to a sold-out audience Wednesday night at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. But he and his family band filled that time with a number of songs from his storied catalog, from "On the Road Again" to "Whiskey River" to "Still Not Dead." Diane Mott, who was sitting in the front row, ended up with one of Nelson's bandanas. She heard Nelson play two of her favorite songs: "Always on My Mind" and "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground." "It was very emotional,"

said Mott, who lives in Leesburg. "Every song he sang was fabulous. His voice is like no other, and he's a fabulous guitar player." At the end, Nelson quickly signed various items at the front of the stage. Wesley Langnecker has Nelson's autograph on a metal Whiskey River sign. "That's his (signature)," Langnecker said of the squiggle. "We're going to frame it." He and his wife, Valerie, had seen Nelson at a festival a few years ago from far away; this time they could see him a bit better. "We are so glad we went," said Valerie, of the Village of Dunedin. Michael Fortuna is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 9299 or michael.fortuna@thevillagesmedia.com.

5 Election Chief: Hard to Have Credible Vote

NAIROBI, KENYA

It is "difficult to guarantee a free, fair and credible election" in Kenya's fresh presidential vote just eight days away despite "full technical preparedness," the head of the election commission said Wednesday as another



The Associated Press

6 Russian TV Star Declares Presidential Bid

MOSCOW

A Russian celebrity TV host shook up the country's political scene Wednesday by announcing her presidential bid, a move that would likely boost public interest in the race but could further fragment the nation's beleaguered

opposition. Ksenia Sobchak, 35, announced her intention to become a candidate in March's election in a YouTube video, arguing that Russia has grown tired of its current political elite and needs a change.

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