Nelson, Mellencamp, Dylan rock in Simpsonville

By Mike Foley
STAFF WRITER
mfoley@greenvillenews.com

SIMPSONVILLE — In a setting and before a crowd closely resembling a backyard barbecue, three music giants rocked the Heritage Park Amphitheater on Wednesday night.

Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp and Bob Dylan each took turns on stage at the intimate Heritage Park venue and each found the audience happy, but wanting more. With each performer apparently allotted about an hourlong set — only Dylan had time for an encore — the crowd had its appetite whetted, but not sated.

Still, that was OK. It wasn't a concert where anyone was going to get upset. It was a family atmosphere, with pizza and ice cream being passed back and forth.

Everywhere you looked, children scurried about, with parents keeping one eye on them, and another on the stage.

Liz and George Gergely of Simpsonville brought along their boys, Alex, 10, and Ben, 7. "They think this music is 'oldies,'" George said with a laugh. He was highly complimentary of Heritage Park, calling it "fantastic" and lauding everything about it, from security to parking to sound quality.

PHOTOS ONLINE
For photos from the concert, go to
greenvilleonline.com

It would have been hard to determine which of the night's performers was the most popular.

The first time the crowd rose to their collective feet was when Mellencamp initially took the stage playing "Pink Houses" as his rowdy rock 'n' roll pumped up both the volume and the dancing.

But when it was Dylan's turn, the crowd responded to "Rainy Day Women #12 & 25" in much the same way.