

people in the news

KISS legendary rock hits road again

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — There's the ritual spitting of fake blood, the bass player's pointed tongue and the big, spiked boots: Kiss is back.

Gene Simmons, Ace Frehley, Paul Stanley, and Peter Criss held a reunion concert Saturday at Orange County's Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre — their first public performance together since 1983.

The legendary rock band performed 10 songs, including "Beth," which was featured in the movie "Beautiful Girls." The band even overcame a minor explosion when a cache of fireworks under the stage canopy briefly caught fire.

Kiss is scheduled to officially kick off its two-year world tour June 28 in Detroit.

Writer, food guru takes his eggs yolkless

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Calvin Trillin has one short message for fans of his fat-filled gastronomic travelogues: he's moved on.

The longtime New Yorker magazine writer who once chided America for its faux continental restaurant pretensions now has his breakfasts at a hotel restaurant called the Chez when he's here on a book tour. And he orders smoked salmon and scrambled eggs — yolkless, please.

"I wouldn't say I'm a graduate of a 12-step program or anything like that," said Trillin, once a proud fan of down-home regional cuisine.

"But modest reformist tendencies have been discerned, that's how I'd put it," the 60-year-old writer said in Mon-

day's Los Angeles Times.

Now a weekly humor columnist for Time magazine, Trillin still writes occasionally for the New Yorker. But his latest project is his newest book, "Messages From My Father," a memoir about his father and life in their Midwestern Jewish family in the 1950s.

Trillin is currently on a tour of a dozen cities, promoting the book.

Evangelist Graham to begin last crusade

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Forty-six years ago, a handsome, fiery young preacher from North Carolina drew 275,000 people to a three-week revival crusade in downtown Minneapolis and at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

That same year — 1950 — he founded the Billy Graham

Evangelistic Association in Minneapolis, where three years earlier he had taken over as president of Northwestern College, Bible School and Seminary.

Billy Graham's ties with Minneapolis come full circle Wednesday when he begins his last crusade in the city that is still the headquarters of his ministry. It will also be one of the last crusades of his career.

Graham, 77, has Parkinson's disease and hasn't preached a sermon since December, when he fell in his New York hotel

room and broke his ribs.

Graham himself said Monday: "I have no fear for the future. It's in God's hands. I don't spend one minute thinking about what will happen when I'm gone."

Dodger Butler begins radiation treatments

ATLANTA (AP) — Los Angeles Dodger outfielder Brett Butler began radiation treatments for throat cancer Monday.

The treatments will continue for six weeks at a clinic in Atlanta, said Lowery Robinson, a friend who has served as a spokesman for Butler.

"Everything went great," Robinson said. "He said it was anticlimactic to some degree. You don't know what to expect the first time out."

Doctors removed a cancerous tonsil from Butler's throat May 2 and then operated again May 21 to remove lymph nodes, only one of which proved to be cancerous.

After his radiation treatments, Butler, 38, plans to go to Mexico to undergo an intravenous program he hopes will build his immune system. He has said he wants to return to the Dodgers late in the season, though doctors say that's unlikely.

"He's planning to work out, keep the strength up," Robinson said.

Braxton gets personal with new album

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Toni Braxton tells a few secrets on her new album.

On her self-titled debut album three years ago, such songs as

"Breathe Again" and "Seven Whole Days" portrayed Braxton as the victim of romance.

On *Secrets*, which comes out Tuesday, Braxton bubbles with sexual attitude. One song, "You're Makin' Me High," is something of a rhapsody on desire and what a body might do about it.

"At first I was nervous about singing like that," Braxton, 28, said in Sunday's Los Angeles Times. "I'm very comfortable with my sexuality, but the lyrics in that song are so overt."

Braxton also joked about the long "bought" hair she wears in the video for the song: "You too can have this for \$1,200."

It's a switch from her trademark close-cropped look.

Movie director pays 26-year library fine

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (AP) — It might take a while, but you can't say Phil Alden Robinson doesn't pay his dues.

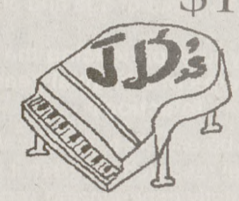
The director of the hit movie "Field of Dreams" finally returned two library books he borrowed from his alma mater, Union College, in June 1970 — and he paid the fine, too.

"At ten cents a day, it comes to \$1,900," Robinson said while giving the commencement speech at graduation Sunday. He also received an honorary doctorate.

Robinson, who graduated in 1971, told some 650 graduates to satisfy their own dreams as they head out into the world.

"You've had people all your life telling you what to do. Now finally, at last, it's your turn," he said. "Take the wheel, set your own course, bust out of here, do it your own way."

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