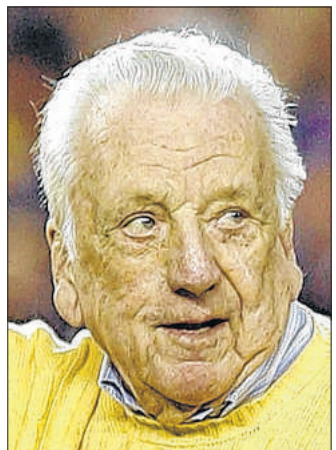


'THE LEGO MOVIE': IT'S NOT JUST CHILD'S PLAY

Stephen Whitty raves about 'awesome' film. In Ticket



JIM McISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Ralph Kiner hit 369 home runs over a 10-year major-league career, then joined the Mets as an announcer in 1962.

Longtime Mets voice Kiner dies at age 91

Hall of Famer was in booth for 52 years

By Craig Wolff and Michael J. Fensom
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Ralph Kiner the baseball slugger believed in the simple virtue of the home run and could break down with riveting precision the best way to hit one. The raconteur in him could capture moments out of baseball lore and make listeners feel they were there—even if he hadn't been.

Kiner, a Mets broadcaster in each of the club's 52 seasons and a bridge between every generation of the team's fans, died yesterday at his home in Rancho Mirage, Calif. He was 91.

One set of baseball fans knew him as one of the game's most fearsome, yet unheralded, home run hitters. He led the National League in homers for seven straight seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates, from 1946 — his rookie season — through 1952, which made him one of the highest paid players of his time. ("Home run hitters drive Cadillacs," he liked to say, while "singles hitters drive Fords.")

If his star did not shine as brightly as contemporaries such as Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams, that was largely because the Pirates were perennial losers and because his career was foreshortened by a bad back. Still, in just 10 seasons, he finished his career with 369 home runs. He was voted into the Hall of Fame in 1975.

With the Mets in 1962, he found a second home and an identity that would obscure his on-field career. As the single former player on the team's first announcing team, along with Bob Murphy and Lindsey Nelson, he gave the franchise a credibility it otherwise lacked. Asked why he had come to a team with no prospects of

SEE KINER, SPORTS PAGE 28

Move to restore jobless aid fails again

Senate vote comes up shy for a second time as Republicans block legislation

By David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans narrowly blocked the advance of legislation to restore benefits for the long-term unemployed yesterday for the second time in less than a month, and Democrats said they intended to call another vote on the issue.

"We're one Republican vote away from restoring unemployment benefits for 1.7 million Americans," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) said.

The White House called the outcome disappointing.

The measure called for a three-month renewal of an expired program that provided up to 47 weeks of federal benefits when state-paid aid runs out, generally after 26 weeks. The cost was estimated at slightly more than \$6 billion over a decade. It would have been offset by lowering pension obligations for some companies, a step that would have increased their taxable income.

The vote was 58-40, two shy of the

60 needed to prevail. That understated the measure's true support, because Reid sided with opponents at the last minute in a maneuver that will permit him to have the issue reconsidered under the Senate's rules.

Republican Sens. Dean Heller of Nevada, Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire sided with 52 Democrats and two independents on the vote.

The attempt to renew the expired

jobless benefits was the first legislation that majority Democrats placed before the Senate this year, and represents the leading edge of their attempt to gain support among economically strapped voters at a time polls show that voters are concerned about the gap between rich and poor.

New Jersey Sens. Robert Menendez and Cory Booker lashed out at Republicans who blocked the vote yesterday. Earlier in the week Booker used his first floor speech to urge Republicans to pass another extension of the

SEE UNEMPLOYMENT, PAGE 3

SOCHI 2014

AN OLYMPIC EFFORT TO PROTECT THE GAMES



SCOTT HALLERAN/GETTY IMAGES

Members of a fast reaction squad, part of the massive security force in Sochi, patrol yesterday in the Rosa Khutor Mountain Village.

From police to snipers, Russia deploys an army of security personnel in Sochi

By Will Englund
WASHINGTON POST

SOCHI, Russia — Hard by a rushing river, a sniper's nest lies tucked away in the bushes alongside the new railroad that connects the two main Olympics sites. Camouflaged sentry posts follow the route for its entire 30 miles. Behind a wall, far out of town, a compound of army tents houses some of the tens of thousands of personnel who will provide security. A parking lot in the forest holds hundreds of police cars.

President Vladimir Putin promised that Sochi would be safe for the Winter Olympics, and the Russian security effort is

nothing short of gigantic. Legions of screeners and ID checkers control the flow of thousands of athletes, coaches, spectators, journalists, volunteers and workers. Police frisk every passenger heading for commuter trains. Other police officers stand guard at every intersection surrounding the Olympics campus.

Behind them, unseen but ubiquitous, are the snipers, soldiers, missile launchers.

Construction delays continue to plague the Olympics, even as competition began yesterday. But Russian officials say they are confident they have their security

SEE SOCHI, PAGE 3

■ Airline ban on liquids is barely enforced. Page 3

■ What's the worst that can happen in Sochi? Do we want to know? Dave D'Alessandro, In Sports

Frustrated drivers get a break: Mayor is putting a stop to town's red-light cameras

By Mike Frassinelli
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

In a rare move, the mayor of Brick said he is pulling the plug this month on the controversial but lucrative red-light cameras in his town.

Mayor John Ducey has concerns about the fairness of the automated traffic cops on busy Route 70 and elsewhere. He is not renewing the red-light camera contract with American Traffic Solutions, and the cameras

will go dark on Feb. 18.

"I'm not convinced that our intersections are safer and, therefore, come Feb. 18, 2014, there will no longer be red-light cameras here in Brick Township," said Ducey, who yesterday joined outspoken red-light camera opponent Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon (R-Monmouth) at a news conference at the Brick Township municipal building. "Also as of Feb. 23, 2014, the equipment will be

removed, or else we will consider it as abandoned property and have the township remove it."

They are the only red-light cameras in the Shore region, where a trip for a tourist can be soured by an \$85 ticket for a rolling right turn on red.

"When I was running for mayor, I met countless residents going door to door, and one of the most common sources of the frustration around the town was the red-light cameras

here," Ducey said. "And it didn't matter whether or not they got tickets or they didn't get tickets; either way they weren't happy that they had red-light cameras in town."

The three cameras are at Route 70 and Chambers Bridge Road (Route 549), Route 70 and Brick Boulevard (Route 631) and Brick Boulevard and Chambers Bridge Road.

Ducey said at two of the three intersections, rear-end crashes and right-

angle accidents have increased since the cameras were installed — double the accidents in the case of Brick Boulevard and Chambers Bridge Road.

Brick took in \$830,000 in ticket revenue in 2013.

"This is really a historic moment in the fight against what I and the motorists of New Jersey call the scourge of red-light cameras in New Jersey," O'Scanlon said. "This is the first

SEE CAMERAS, PAGE 5

TODAY
Mostly sunny with
a high near 36°



TONIGHT
Partly cloudy with
a low around 17°



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