

INTERNATIONAL

BRISBANE, Australia – Australian police came to the aid of a 3-year-old boy after he became trapped inside a claw machine at a suburban shopping mall. Video of the unusual rescue Saturday was shared on social media by Queensland Police on Thursday. It showed the toddler sitting inside the glass-walled box filled with plush toys, blissfully unaware of his predicament. The boy's father, Timothy Hopper, said his son had disappeared into the claw machine's prize dispenser and inside it in a "split second." "I had zero chance to react to it, it was unbelievable how fast he climbed up there," the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported Hopper saying. The video then shows the officers and the boy's parents encouraging him into a safe corner at the back of the machine, and to cover his eyes while the police shatter a glass panel to free him unharmed. The video ends with one of the officers joking with the boy, "You won a prize. Which one do you want?"

LONDON – King Charles III has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun treatment, Buckingham Palace said Monday. Less than 18 months into his reign, the 75-year-old monarch will suspend public duties but will continue with state business, and won't be handing over his constitutional roles as head of state. The palace didn't say what form of cancer the king has, but said it's not related to the king's recent treatment for a benign prostate condition. The palace said "a separate issue of concern was noted" during Charles' treatment for an enlarged prostate last month, when he spent three nights in a London hospital. "Diagnostic tests have identified a form of cancer," it said in a statement.

CARIBBEAN OCEAN – A handful of centuries-old sponges from deep in the Caribbean are causing some scientists to think human-caused climate change began sooner and has heated the world more than they thought. They calculate that the world has already gone past the internationally approved target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In the past several years, scientists have noted more extreme and harmful weather — floods, storms, droughts and heat waves — than they had expected for the current level of warming. One explanation for that would be if there was more warming than scientists had initially calculated, said study co-author Amos Winter, a paleo oceanographer at Indiana State University. He said this study also supports the theory that climate change is accelerating, proposed last year by former NASA top scientist James Hansen.

QUITO, Ecuador – A diplomatic rift between Ecuador and Russia appeared to intensify over the weekend after the European nation decided to ban some imports of bananas from Ecuador. The two countries have been at loggerheads recently after Ecuador decided to transfer some of its old Russian military equipment to the United States, in exchange for \$200 million in new military gear. On Saturday, Russia's federal agency for veterinary and phytosanitary controls announced it was banning imports from five Ecuadorian banana companies, claiming that a disease had been found in previous shipments of their fruits.

Ecuador is the world's leading banana exporter, with sales worth around \$3.5 billion in 2022. Around a fifth of its annual sales goes to Russia.

DAKAR, Senegal – Senegal's government on Monday restricted mobile internet access and impeded protesters as federal lawmakers considered a bill to extend President Macky Sall's tenure following his decision to postpone the country's Feb. 25 presidential election. Sall announced in July that he would not seek a third term in office. On Saturday, he cited questions over the approved list of candidates and other election controversies for his decision to delay this month's vote. Members of the National Assembly were deliberating on a bill that recommends a postponement of up to six months. If approved, the legislation would put the next likely election date in August.

ISLAMABAD – A Pakistani court on Saturday convicted and sentenced former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife to seven years in prison on a charge that their 2018 marriage violated the law, officials and a lawyer said. The latest verdict follows another case in which Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were sentenced to 14 years in prison on Wednesday for corruption. It comes ahead of February 8 parliamentary elections in which Khan has already been disqualified because of graft convictions while his party is struggling to run an election campaign. It was Khan's fourth conviction since 2022, when he was ousted from power. His sentences total 34 years and will be served concurrently. The lawyer for the couple, Intisar Panjutha, said the verdict was announced by Judge Qudrat Ullah a day after the trial ended. Khan and his family insist the trial is politically motivated.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) – Sound begins blasting ear drums and rattling bones even before the speakers — hauled by big rigs creeping their way through Brazil's thronging Carnival crowds — draw near. The behemoth sound trucks known as electric trios are a Brazilian innovation that amplified music and effectively did away with front-row seats — making Carnival more accessible. In the seven decades since the first one hit Brazil's streets, they have become a fixture of the country's annual pre-Lenten festivities and draw millions to the streets. Singer Caetano Veloso's ode to the earth-shaking vehicles proclaimed that the only people not following them must already be dead. From Salvador, on Brazil's northeast coast, trios spread throughout the country and found more disciples; an Instagram account that posts seemingly banal videos of the nation's rigs has about 150,000 followers, with fans praising each trio's merits. They've grown ever more sophisticated and ever larger — with lights, LED screens, dressing rooms and VIP areas.

PANAMA CITY, Panama – A former president convicted of money laundering defiantly proclaimed his intention Saturday to run in Panama's upcoming presidential election despite facing a possible ban on seeking office. Ricardo Martinelli was officially presented as the candidate of the Realizing Goals Party at a rally in Panama City where his supporters waved blue and white flags and chanted that they will stand with him in his struggle with Panamanian officials. In a speech, the former president and businessman said he was not guilty of any

crimes and accused authorities of persecuting him as the country gets ready to hold elections May 5. “The only crime I have committed is to defend the people of Panama, to defend our country from those who want to steal hope,” Martinelli said. Panama’s constitution bans anyone with a conviction carrying a prison sentence of five or more years from running for office.

NEW DELHI – Indian police cleared a suspected spy pigeon after eight months’ detention and released it into the wild Tuesday, news agency Press Trust of India reported. The pigeon’s ordeal began in May when it was captured near a port in Mumbai with two rings tied to its legs. Police suspected it was involved in espionage and took it in, later sending it to Mumbai’s Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals. Eventually, it turned out the pigeon was an open-water racing bird from Taiwan that had escaped and made its way to India. With police permission, the bird was transferred to the Bombay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, whose doctors set it free on Tuesday.

PARIS – France’s new foreign minister on Monday used his first visit to Israel to urge the government to allow an “immediate cease-fire” and a “massive influx” of humanitarian aid in Gaza. Foreign Minister Stéphane Séjourné, who became France’s top diplomat last month, met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem during his trip. Speaking later at a news conference, Séjourné said it was France’s role as a “friend” to tell Israeli leaders some truths they “may have difficulties hearing.” Séjourné stressed that France “strongly supported Israel’s right to defend itself” after the Hamas-orchestrated attack in southern Israel that triggered the war in Gaza. At the same time, he called the death and destruction in the Palestinian territory a tragedy. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday for a Mideast trip that will also take him to Egypt, Qatar, Israel and the West Bank this week. Blinken hopes to make progress on a potential cease-fire deal.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) – With fireworks, feasts and red envelopes stuffed with cash for the kids, numerous Asian nations and overseas communities have welcomed Saturday the Lunar New Year. It begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends 15 days later on the first full moon. The dates of the holiday vary slightly each year, falling between late January and mid-February as it is based on the cycles of the moon. Firing bottle rockets and other fireworks is a traditional way of welcoming the new year and seeing off any lingering bad memories. Children are given red envelopes stuffed with cash as a show of affection and to help them get a leg-up in the coming months. Long lines of cars congested South Korean highways on Saturday as millions of people began leaving the densely populated Seoul capital region to visit relatives across the country for the Lunar New Year’s holiday.

PARIS (AP) – Amid the buzz of anticipation for the 2024 Olympics, organizers and Paris City Hall officials inaugurated Sunday the first – and only – purpose-built site in the French capital for this summer’s Games, nestled in a multicultural working-class neighborhood. The Adidas

Arena at Porte de la Chapelle is ready and “operational” about five months before the Games begin, officials said. It is being touted as showcasing the city’s readiness and commitment to both the global sporting community and its residents. This venue will host badminton and rhythmic gymnastics events during the 2024 Olympics and is expected to be part of broader efforts to revitalize local communities. For the Paralympics, it will also host athletes competing in badminton and weightlifting events.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — As Rio de Janeiro’s Carnival celebrations kicked off on Saturday, dozens of dogs dressed as mermaids, superheroes, butterflies and clowns paraded alongside their owners in one of the city’s most beloved canine street parties. The Bloco — a play on words that joins “bloco,” which refers to Carnival street parties and “cão,” or dog in Portuguese — gathered over 200 people in Rio’s beachside Barra de Tijuca neighborhood on Saturday morning. Clad in tulle and sequins, fluffy fashionistas took part in a contest to choose the day’s top costumes. On a small stage in the middle of a leafy square, pups of all sizes and breeds strutted and wagged their tails. Organizers announced the contestants over a microphone, as confetti rained down. Following the costume competition, the bloco began to weave around the square as dog lovers and their pets swayed and shimmied to the rhythm of Brazilian pop classics.

STATE

PORTLAND, Maine — Fishermen who harvest one of the most valuable marine species in the U.S. hoped for permission to catch more baby eels next year, but regulators said Monday the tight restrictions that have been in place for several years are likely to stay the same. The tiny baby eels, which are often worth more than \$2,000 per pound, are also called elvers. They are a critically important link in the worldwide supply chain for Japanese food. They are harvested from rivers and streams in Maine, sold to aquaculture companies and raised to maturity, then resold as food. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission needs to set a new quota for next year and beyond because the current management plan is expiring. The commission said Monday it’s only considering one option for next year’s limit and that is a little less than 10,000 pounds the same the level fishermen have been allowed to catch for several years.

DETROIT — Tesla is recalling nearly all of the vehicles it has sold in the U.S. because some warning lights on the instrument panel are too small. The recall of nearly 2.2 million vehicles announced Friday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is a sign of stepped-up scrutiny of the electric vehicle maker. The agency also said it has upgraded a 2023 investigation into Tesla steering problems to an engineering analysis, a step closer to a recall. Documents posted Friday by the agency say the warning light recall will be done with an online software update. It covers the 2012 through 2023 Model S, the 2016 through 2023 Model X, the 2017 through 2023 Model 3, the 2019 through 2024 Model Y and the 2024 Cybertruck. The agency says that the brake, park and antilock brake warning lights have a

smaller font size than required by federal safety standards. That can make critical safety information hard to read, increasing the risk of a crash. Tesla has already started releasing the software update, and owners will be notified by letter starting March 30.

BELLEVUE, Washington – An inert rocket of the type used to carry a nuclear warhead has been found in the garage of a home of a deceased resident in Washington state, police said. Bellevue police responded Thursday to a report of a military-grade rocket in the garage of a home in the city across Lake Washington from Seattle. Police said an Air Force museum in Dayton, Ohio, had called Wednesday evening to report an offer to donate the item, which a neighbor said had been purchased at an estate sale. Bomb squad members inspected the rusting object and found it was a Douglas AIR-2 Genie, an unguided air-to-air rocket that is designed to carry a 1.5 kt W25 nuclear warhead. There was no warhead attached and there was no rocket fuel — “essentially meaning that the item was an artifact with no explosive hazard.”

MANCHESTER, N.H. – A woman fell into a dumpster while throwing out her garbage and was later rescued from a trash truck that had compacted the contents while she was inside, fire department officials in New Hampshire said. Luckily, neighbors heard her screams and the trash compartment was equipped with a camera. The driver spotted the woman stuck inside and called 911. By then, the driver “had reportedly compacted the garbage up to four times,” the Manchester Fire Department said in a news release. Rescuers used a basket ladder to reach the top of the truck and lift her out. By then, she was “standing/talking/yelling, but was not alert enough to answer questions,” the news release said.

RICHFIELD, Minnesota – Travelers in northwestern Minnesota can shake off their trepidation about hitting the winter roads knowing Taylor Drift is clearing a path ahead of them. The snowplow named for Taylor Swift was the runaway winner of Minnesota’s fourth annual Name a Snowplow contest, with eight new names announced Tuesday. Taylor Drift received 12,027 votes, nearly twice as many as the second-place finisher, Clark W. Blizzwald — honoring the star character of “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.” In order of votes received, the other winners out of 49 finalists were Dolly Plowton, Waipahinte — a Dakota word for “snowplow” — Beyonsleigh, You’re Killin’ Me Squalls, Fast and Flurrious, and Barbie’s Dream Plow.

SANTA MONICA, California – The owner of Snapchat is cutting approximately 10% of its worldwide workforce, or about 530 employees, the latest tech company to announce layoffs. Snap Inc. said in a regulatory filing that it currently estimates \$55 million to \$75 million in charges, mostly for severance and related costs. It expects the majority of the costs to be incurred in the first quarter. This isn’t the first time Snap has eliminated jobs. The Santa Monica, California-based company announced in August 2022 that it planned to cut about

20% of its global workforce. There are 406 million users on Snapchat every day, on average, according to Snap's website. It has more than 7 million Snapchat+ subscribers.

MARION, Indiana – A truck hauling zebras and camels for a series of weekend circus performances caught fire early Saturday on a northeastern Indiana highway, prompting a police rescue of the animals, which roamed along the freeway, some munching on grass. The tractor-trailer caught fire about 2 a.m. along Interstate 69 in Grant County and a state trooper, a Grant County Sheriff's deputy and a third person rescued the five zebras, four camels and a miniature horse by leading them off the smoked-filled trailer, said Sgt. Steven Glass with Indiana State Police. The truck was bringing the animals from Florida to Fort Wayne for four weekend circus performances in the northeastern Indiana city benefitting the Mizpah Shrine Circus, said Steve Trump, its circus director.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY – The 27th Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place from Friday, Feb. 16 through Monday, Feb. 19. Volunteers from around the world are invited to count the birds they see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, then enter their checklists at birdcount.org. Anyone with internet access can participate, no matter what their skill level—it's a great family activity, too. A lot has changed since the first Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was held in 1998. Each year brings unwavering enthusiasm from the growing number of participants in this now-global event. All the data contribute to a snapshot of bird distribution and help scientists see changes over the past 20 years. Varying weather conditions so far this winter are producing a few trends that GBBC participants can watch for during the count.

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) – Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring on an overcast Friday morning at Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania, the scene of the largest and best-known Groundhog Day celebration in the United States. The annual event is a tongue-in-cheek ritual in which Phil's handlers, members of a club with roots in the late 19th century, reveal whether the groundhog has seen his shadow. Just after sunrise Friday, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club announced Phil did not see his shadow, which will usher in early springlike weather. The groundhog seeing his shadow presages six more weeks of winter, according to the group. Vice President Dan McGinley read the decision, written in verse and filled with quips about the groundhog's envy for humans' opposable thumbs and hopes to garner some Punxsutawney Phil write-in votes in 2024, from the chosen scroll and announced, "Glad tidings on this Groundhog Day, an early spring is on the way!"

NEW YORK (AP) – Under cover of darkness a year ago Friday, someone breached a waist-high fence and slipped into the Central Park Zoo. Once inside, they cut a hole through a steel mesh cage, freeing a majestic Eurasian eagle-owl named Flaco who had arrived at the zoo as a fledgling 13 years earlier. Immediately, Flaco fled the park, blinking his big orange eyes at pedestrians and police on Fifth Avenue before flying off into the night. In the year since his dramatic escape, Flaco has become one of the city's most beloved characters. By

day he lounges in Manhattan's courtyards and parks or perches on fire escapes. He spends his nights hooting atop water towers and preying on the city's abundant rats. To the surprise of many experts, Flaco is thriving in the urban wilds. An apex predator with a nearly 6-foot wingspan, he has called on abilities some feared he hadn't developed during a lifetime in captivity, gamely exploring new neighborhoods and turning up unexpectedly at the windows of New Yorkers.

LOCAL:

EASTERN IOWA – Airports in Des Moines, Dubuque, Sioux City, Fort Dodge and other cities will receive millions of dollars in grants from the bipartisan infrastructure law, which was backed by Senator Chuck Grassley. In total, 20 airports will receive over \$15 million to address aging infrastructure and to ensure safe travel. Des Moines International Airport will receive \$5,490,000, Dubuque Regional Airport will receive \$2,668,150, and Fort Dodge Regional Airport will receive \$876,150.

DUBUQUE, Iowa – A proposal at the Iowa House would ban automated speed cameras in the state, which would mean Dubuque's new plan to use them would come to a halt. The new bill moving forward in the House would do two things, including banning handheld use of a cell phone while driving, and ban automated traffic cameras used to enforce traffic laws. Dubuque has been working on a plan to add automated speed cameras. The city says that it's a way to enforce speed laws in times where there are staffing shortages. Drivers would only receive tickets for going more than 11 miles per hour over the posted speed limit.

CENTRAL IOWA – Coyote hunting moves to center stage for an estimated 10,000 hunters, after most of Iowa's other hunting seasons have now closed. Although its season never closes, coyotes, the state's top predator, are hunted most often during the winter. The coyote population is distributed fairly well across the state with the highest numbers in western Iowa. Coyotes are habitat generalists and can be found near large brush piles, timber and grass fields, and in particular, fields with switchgrass. Coyote hunters need to be aware of the possibility – however remote – that the animal they see through their scope is not a coyote but a wolf passing through the state. Coyotes have a pointed snout and their ears are larger proportionally to their body. Wolves are taller than coyotes, have long front legs and a heavier, squarer frame. There is more detailed information on coyote and wolf characteristics at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting and scroll to the bottom then click on Iowa's Occasional Wildlife Visitors.

SIOUX CENTER – The former Sioux County Youth Fair grounds in Sioux Center is getting a bit of an head start at spring cleaning as part of the city of Sioux Center's plans to have the site cleared and landscaped this year. Most of the buildings, barns and sheds that were used to host the fair near the intersection of Seventh Street Northeast and 13th Avenue Northeast have been bought by others. With a soft deadline of March to get those structures torn down

or moved out, crews have been taking advantage of the good weather to dig into that work. Bob Koopmans of rural Sioux Center was one of the people hard at work at the former fairgrounds last week. By Thursday, Koopmans, who purchased the bathroom building, had it up on blocks and with the assistance of a helper and they were carefully maneuvering a trailer underneath the building could be taken back to Koopmans' farm to become a shop. When the structures are gone, the city will have two buildings remaining it will put to use: the multipurpose building and the commercial exhibit building. The city purchased those buildings from the Sioux County Youth Fair board for \$15,000.

DES MOINES – CO2 pipelines are back on the Iowa Legislature agenda with backing from activists and planned expansion from Summit Carbon Solutions. POET announced Monday, Jan. 29, that it will partner with Ames-based pipeline company, adding 17 ethanol plants to the proposed five-state route. "POET is excited to partner with Summit Carbon Solutions on this historic project. As the world seeks low-carbon energy solutions, carbon capture ensures that ag-based biofuels will remain competitive for decades to come," said POET CEO Jeff Broin. The new carbon-capture sites include the POET Bioprocessing location south of Ashton, which originally was aligned with the Navigator CO2 pipeline, a project axed in October.

ROCK RAPIDS – Rock Rapids Kids Club is the largest of four day-care providers in Lyon County, and it provides a crucial service to families and the wider community. Lyon County is not alone in struggling to provide enough day-care slots to meet demand. Twenty-three percent of Iowans live in a child-care desert, according to Gov. Kim Reynolds' 2022 Child Care Task Force Report. For rural Iowans, the rate jumps to 35 percent. An area is considered a child-care desert when there are more than three times as many children as licensed or registered child-care slots available. In some parts of N'West Iowa, the number is much higher. In 2018, for instance, in one part of Osceola County, there were 18.5 children for every available slot, according to an analysis of U.S. Census and Iowa Department of Human Services data conducted by the Center for American Progress.

WELLMAN – The Wellman Public Library will spend this week moving back into its new and improved original building next to city hall, after months of renovations expanded the space to more than double its previous size. Library Director Cary Geno said it was a long-anticipated date for the building's staff and patrons. "We're excited," she said. "The new remodel space is gorgeous and we just are really excited to finally be getting back in there, setting everything back up, and reopening it for our community." The library has asked volunteers to help carry book boxes, shelves and other materials from its temporary location at the Driscoll Building about a block and a half away. Moving dates are Feb. 12-14 from noon to 8 p.m., and Feb. 15-16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FAIRFIELD – The United Way of Wapello County is offering free tax preparation service this year in Fairfield. The organization announced that it is resuming the Volunteer Income Tax

Assistance program in Fairfield after having to stop it years ago because of staffing. Jefferson County residents can schedule an appointment with a tax preparer at the Fairfield Community Center, 209 S. Court St., between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. For those who can't make those times, the organization offers appointments at its Ottumwa office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. This free service is available to all ages and is intended for individuals or families with annual incomes under \$59,000. To make an appointment, call the United Way of Wapello County at 641-682-1264. Fisher said participants will be told what forms to bring with them to their appointment, and then once a certified advanced tax preparer has done the return, the participant will come back to review the paperwork and sign their name. Then, the United Way will file the tax return electronically.

WESTERN IOWA— An online platform hopes to help rural communities address mental health issues and farm stress issues. Many organizations and nonprofits are partnering to create the Farm Family Wellness Alliance. Terri Moore of the American Farm Bureau Federation says the resource is definitely needed in order for mental health to become more inclusive. "One of the challenges in the mental health arena is that we have national hotlines, but those counselors may not understand rural America. Life is very different in rural America, and so the psychology of helping someone in crisis in rural America is different," said Moore. Those living in rural areas can get anonymous mental health and wellbeing services online at www.farmfoundation.org

DES MOINES – The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) has opened the application period for the annual Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program, sponsored by ACT, to award up to \$1,000 to 12 schools nationally to support STEM-related activities for youth. Applications will be accepted until March 15, 2024 with award recipients announced and funded in Summer 2024. NLGA will award twelve scholarships to twelve schools in twelve different states and territories, worth \$10,000 total. The Scholarship Program is administered by NLGA, the nonpartisan, nonprofit association for the nation's seconds-in-command, and sponsored by ACT, the education and career readiness nonprofit. Funding will be awarded to schools to support STEM-related activities, programming, curriculum, equipment, and other expenses.

DES MOINES – According to AAA, the price of regular unleaded gasoline fell 4 cents, averaging \$2.83 across Iowa. As of Wednesday, the cost of regular unleaded gasoline averaged \$2.83 across Iowa. Prices are down 47 cents from a year ago. The national average on Wednesday was \$3.15, up one cent from last week's price. The price of global crude oil fell this week on the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) by \$1.82 per barrel and is currently priced at \$73.82. Brent crude oil fell \$2.54 and is currently priced at \$79.14. One year ago, WTI crude sold for \$77.14, and Brent crude was \$82.92. Retail diesel prices in Iowa fell 3 cents this week, with a statewide average of \$3.54. One year ago, diesel prices

averaged \$4.22 in Iowa. The current Iowa diesel price is 40 cents lower than the national average of \$3.94.

SPORTS-

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Royals and star shortstop Bobby Witt Jr. agreed Monday to an 11-year contract worth about \$291 million guaranteed, two people familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press on Monday. The deal includes three years of team options that could drive the value to about \$377 million and keep Witt in Kansas City through the 2037 season, according to the people who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the financial terms were not disclosed. Witt's guarantee salary would make it the 16th largest deal in Major League Baseball history and the second-biggest pre-arbitration extension behind the 14-year, \$340 million contract the Padres gave to Fernando Tatis Jr. last April. The 23-year-old Witt became the first Royals player to enter the 30-30 club last year, when he hit 30 homers and stole 49 bases. The only other American League shortstop to accomplish the feat by Witt's age was Alex Rodriguez in 1998.

IOWA CITY - Caitlin Clark and Iowa climbed back to No. 2 in The Associated Press Top 25 women's basketball poll Monday as the star guard moved within striking distance of the NCAA career scoring record. It's the second time in a few weeks that the Hawkeyes have been second in the poll, a spot that hasn't been kind to teams the past month. UCLA, Iowa and Kansas State all took turns in the second position since Jan. 8 and none of the schools could hold that ranking for more than a week at a time.

TORONTO – Jack Hughes is nearing a return to the New Jersey Devils lineup after missing the past month because of an injury. The team said Saturday that Hughes is “really close” to playing again and decided to return home to New Jersey on Friday night to begin his preparations for the second half of the NHL season. He voiced optimism about an imminent return earlier in the week. “Hopefully I come out of the break here and feel good and can finish the year off really strong,” Hughes said.

DENVER – Jamal Murray loves that the Denver Nuggets can turn to their championship mettle in crunch time. He hates that they have to rely on that so often. “I think we should just be a little bit more on point to start the game, not to have to kick it into another gear,” Murray said after the Denver Nuggets rallied from a double-digit deficit to beat the short-handed but spirited Portland Trail Blazers 112-103 on Sunday night.

WORLD CYCLING FEDERATION – Rigoberto Urán has confirmed that 2024 will be his final season as a professional rider. The EF Education-EasyPost rider made the announcement on Sunday evening, hours after the end of the Tour Colombia. Urán had already indicated his intention to retire in November, but he appeared to row back on that idea in recent weeks, revealing that EF had offered him a two-year contract extension and insisting that no decision

had yet been taken. Ultimately, Urán announced that he would finish his career after 19 seasons in the professional peloton. His EF Education-EasyPost team released a statement to coincide with his RCN interview.

WEATHER:

This Afternoon: Occasional snow showers, after 1:00. High near 30.. South southeast wind between 3 and 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 75%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tonight: Scattered flurries. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 10. Calm wind becoming north between 8 and 11 mph.

Sunday: Snow showers will increase with total accumulations in some parts of the state between 8 -10 inches. Temperatures will stay steady around 25 degrees. Winds will increase from the North, northwest around 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Snow will taper off after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low near 24. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with temperatures staying steady at 30. Northwest wind between 9 and 16 mph.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of more snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

TOWN	WEATHER	TEMP	WIND	PCPN.
SIOUX CITY	OVERCAST	20	NW	1
SPENCER	PTLY CLDY	25	NW	2
BURLINGTON	NO REPORT			
DES MOINES	SUNNY	35	N	3
CEDAR RAPIDS	PTLY CLDY	32	N	3
OTTUMWA	CLDY	36	CALM	TRACE
COUNCIL BLUFFS	PTLY CLDY	34	CALM	2

COMMERCIAL

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