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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY
AUGUST 11, 2008



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Tax rate, budget face city

Council slated to convene Tuesday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The tax rate and proposed budget for 2008-2009 will take center stage Tuesday, as the Big Spring City Council begins taking steps to adopt its fiscal plan for the coming year.

During budget work sessions held in July, the council settled on a tax rate of \$1.0227 per \$100 valuation, the same rate used for the 2007-2008 budget. The council is expected to discuss the tax rate Tuesday night, as well as hold a state-mandated public hearing on the matter.

According to City Finance Director Peggy Walker, the tax rate consists of 68.54 cents for the general fund; 8.07 cents to fund the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Task Force; 2.42 cents to refund obligation bonds from 2002; 22.53 cents for general obligation bonds for the Roy Anderson Sports Complex and streets project; and .69 cents for cer-

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Ed and Terrie Cheshire, newly appointed captains of the Big Spring Salvation Army, go over floor plans for a new emergency shelter. The Cheshires recently replaced Russ and Linda Keeney at the helm of the local charity.

Cheshires ready for new venture

Looking forward to serving Big Spring

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

They're captains, and they are taking over the helm of the Big Spring Salvation Army, but Ed and Terrie Cheshire are far from rough and tumble pirates sailing the seven seas.

In fact, they're just happy to be in Texas.

"Prior to coming to Big Spring they had us stationed in Plainview, which is about three hours north of here," said Ed Cheshire. "So we didn't move far. We originally left from Corsicana to go to training. Corsicana is about 60 miles south of Dallas. So we've been very thankful that when they assigned us they brought us home to Texas, and so far they're letting us stay."

The Cheshires took over duties for Russ and Linda Keeney, longtime leaders of the local

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"You always keep it in mind that no matter what I have to go through, you never want to short-change the community or change any of the services that have existed for years."

—Capt. Ed Cheshire

Hang gliding results

Herald Staff Report

Results of the Big Spring International Hang Gliding competition, which wrapped up last weekend at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

Flex wing division

- First place — Kraig Coomber (AUS), 6095 points
- Second Place — Dustin Martin (USA), 5956 points
- Third Place — Glen Volk (USA), 5931 points

Rigid wing division

- First Place — Campbell Bowen (USA),

- 5068 points
- Second Place — James Stinnett (USA), 5042 points
- Third Place — Jim Yocom (USA), 2814 points

BJ Herring and Robin Hamilton set new world records on the last day of the Big Spring International. BJ decided not to fly the task on the last day but rather beat David Glover's rigid wing distance to goal record of 225 miles. He flew 240 miles to set the new world record.

Robin Hamilton showed up with his swift and flew a 300 kilometer FAI triangle in the area and upped the speed record from 44 km/h to 50 km/h.

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Gasoline prices drop

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — A national survey shows gas prices continue dropping across the nation.

The average price of a gallon of regular gasoline at self-serve stations was \$3.85 Friday, down almost 15 cents from two weeks ago.

Mid-grade went for \$3.98 and premium went for \$4.10. That's according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations nationwide, released Sunday.

Diesel was at \$4.64. The cheapest gas was in Tulsa, Okla., where regular cost \$3.50. Anchorage, Alaska, was most expensive at \$4.37.

Russia seizes Georgia base, opens 2nd front

By **MISHA DZHINDZHIKHASHVILI**
Associated Press Writer

TBILISI, Georgia — Russia opened a second front of fighting in Georgia on Monday, sending armored vehicles beyond two breakaway provinces and seizing a military base and police stations in the country's west, the Georgian

government and a Russian official said.

The new forays into Georgia — even as Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili on signed a cease-fire pledge — appeared to show Russian determination to subdue the small, U.S.-backed country, which has been

pressing for NATO membership.

The latest developments indicate that Russian troops have invaded Georgia proper from the separatist province of Abkhazia while most Georgian forces are locked up in

See **GEORGIA**, Page 3A

No piggyback rides!

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has issued a detailed list of inappropriate behaviors for priests, saying they should not kiss, tickle or wrestle children.

The newest version of the archdiocese's Decree on Child Protection also prohibits bear hugs, lap-sitting and piggyback rides. But it says priests may still shake children's hands, pat them on the back and give high-fives.

Victim advocates who have criticized the Roman Catholic archdiocese for its handling of abuse cases say they support the new measures.

UW Dine Out Day

Herman's Restaurant will be the first of many local restaurants to participate in the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County's Dine Out Day, held each Friday.

Proceeds from sales at Herman's, 1601 Gregg, this Friday will benefit United Way.

Future participating restaurants will include Sonic Drive Inn, K.C. Steakhouse, Al's & Sons Barbecue, Dell's Cafe and Greg's Grill. Others will be added. This year's campaign officially gets started with a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 19 at First United Methodist Church.



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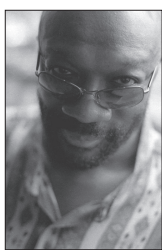
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▶ World Briefs

Isaac Hayes, singer and presage of disco and rap dies

By The Associated Press

With its riveting orchestration, definitive guitar play and signature sensual baritone vocals, Isaac Hayes' theme song for the 1971 movie "Shaft" not only became one of pop music's iconic songs, but also the defining work of Hayes' career.



Hayes

Yet the "Theme from Shaft," which would earn both Grammys and an Oscar, was just a snippet of the groundbreaking music for which Hayes — who died Sunday at age 65 — was responsible.

He penned soul classics like "Hold On I'm Comin'" for Sam & Dave, helped usher in the era of disco and was a goldmine for countless hip-hop and R&B artists who used his illustrious arrangements as the focal point for their songs decades later.

"Isaac Hayes embodies everything that's soul music," Collin Stanback, an A&R executive at Stax, told The Associated Press on Sunday. "When you think of soul music you think of Isaac Hayes — the expression ... the sound and the creativity that goes along with it."

His influence also extended beyond music. His trademarked bald head, full beard and muscular frame, often adorned with a multitude of gold chains, made him a fashion trendsetter at a time when most of his contempo-

raries were sporting blowout Afros. He was also a symbol of black pride, and an activist for civil rights.

Homeland Security disregarded advice from U.S. experts over where to build new biothreat lab

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department swept aside evaluations of government experts and named Mississippi — home to powerful U.S. lawmakers with sway over the agency — as a top location for a new \$451 million, national laboratory to study some of the world's most virulent biological threats, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Mississippi's lawmakers include the Democratic chairman of the department's oversight committee in the House and the senior Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is expected to approve money to build the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility at one of five sites being considered. The two lawmakers said they were unaware of the Homeland Security evaluation system that scored the Mississippi site so low.

The disclosure is the latest example of what critics assert is the Bush administration's politicizing of government decisions, such as efforts to steer science over global warming at the Environmental Protection Agency and hiring and firing practices at the Justice Department.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

tificates of obligation for the rehabilitation of the Northside Water facility and the new annex for the municipal animal shelter.

The council is also expected to hold a public hearing regarding the 2008-2009 municipal budget, which includes an increase in water rates and sanitation.

According to city officials, the rate increase — which will amount to a \$2.50 hike in customer's base rate for sanitation and a 15.5 cent increase per 1,000 gallons of water used — is necessary to balance out a \$500,000 increase caused by the \$215,000 rate hike being passed along by the Colorado River Municipal Water District and the \$252,800 jump in the cost of chemicals.

City Manager Gary Fuqua said splitting the increase between the two rates helps make the hike as equitable as possible.

"I think the council looked at the options available and they basically split it 50/50 between the base rate and the consumption rate," said Fuqua. "I think it's fair to everyone. I feel like the council is very concerned about those citizens who are on fixed incomes and took that into consideration, and that's why they directed us to split that increase. I think they are really looking out for

the people of the city and they understand economic times are hard, and I think we have a good, equitable budget."

The budget, as proposed, is based on the \$1.0227 per \$100 valuation tax rate, according to city officials.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council will consider, among other items:

- Approval of qualifications of construction manager at risk for the Comanche Trail Golf Course Pro Shop and authorizing the city manager to negotiate and execute an agreement.

- Presentation of the Howard County 9-1-1 Communication District's audit for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2007, and presentation of district's proposed budget for fiscal year 2008-2009.

- First reading of an ordinance imposing a moratorium on applications and permitting for portable containers — also known as freight containers or sea containers — in order to allow for review and consideration of new regulations regarding use of the containers and their installation to be effective for 180 days beginning Aug. 13, 2008.

The meeting is expected to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

CHESHIRE

Continued from Page 1A

Salvation Army, after the pair were transferred to the corp's Midland office.

Terrie Cheshire said she was shocked when they learned they would be taking over the helm of the charity's Big Spring operation after only two years in the corps.

"We were shocked when we received the word we were coming to Big Spring. We had only been there (in Plainview) two years, and we made a lot of progress while we were there," said Terrie Cheshire. "But, apparently, we had finished what they had sent us there to do in those two years and they were ready for us to move forward and take on some bigger challenges. This is definitely going to be a bigger challenge."

Ed Cheshire, who was an aircraft hydraulics repairman for the Texas Army

National Guard prior to entering the ministry, said it was a tremendous leap of faith for him and his wife to enter the ministry, but in the end everything has worked out for the best.

"I don't know if we were scared or just confused," said Ed Cheshire. "We both felt the Lord's calling in our lives. However, after the first few months it's like, 'Now what?' What direction do we go in, what do we do to answer that call? Once we entered training in Atlanta, Ga., I'm not quite sure the confusion was cleared up, but eventually it did. And two years later we landed right here, back in Texas."

Terrie Cheshire said a strange string of events — including a back injury — guided her and her husband to the Salvation Army.

"I was a file clerk for an insurance company, and when we moved to Corsicana I started working with the elderly in their

homes, making sure they had everything they needed," said Terrie Cheshire. "From there, I injured my back and was unable to go back to that line of work. That's when I went and applied at the Salvation Army. I love to help people, so that was really the changing point in my life."

"I took a job as a social worker at the Salvation Army office in Corsicana. While I was there I took on the responsibilities of the office manager and I began doing the books. We started going to church there and we just fell in love with the work the Salvation Army does. Heart to God, hand to man. God called us to this ministry."

And while the Cheshires are adamant they don't plan to change the programs the Keeneys left behind, Ed Cheshire said they do want to make some additions to what the local charity does.

"Our biggest goal is to share with the public more

of what the Salvation Army does. Everyone in the community is aware of what we do now — the Boys & Girls Club, the shelter, our Christmas programs — but there's just so much more the Army is involved with, not just locally, but statewide and nationally, and even internationally."

"We want to bring these things to light so people understand the ministry that started with William Booth in England has grown and encompasses everything from helping someone with a bag of groceries to a mop and a blanket in a time of disaster. From spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to being involved in human trafficking worldwide and trying to bring that to light and stop it. I've likened the Salvation Army — to steal a line from the movie "Shrek" — to an onion. There are lots of layers to it."

As for the transition from Plainview to Big

Spring, the couple agree it's the hard work of the local corp's employees and volunteers that has made it all as smooth as possible.

"It's really not all that tough when you have the direction you have as a Salvation Army officer. Every corps you go to is sort of the same. There are still plenty of differences, but as far as picking up the fan drive or the back-to-school drive is concerned, it's something we would be doing anyway. You pick up the ball you're handed and keep carrying it. You adjust your lifestyle and your business ethic to fit the situation and go on. You always keep it in mind that no matter what I have to go through, you never want to short-change the community or change any of the services that have existed for years."

"It has a lot to do with the employees and the volunteers," said Terrie Cheshire. "You walk in and your employees are

already working on the things they need to be working on. They really are a key asset. They play a very large roll in just how smooth that transition goes. We couldn't do what we do without them."

For more information on the Big Spring Salvation Army, call 267-8239.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

GEORGIA

Continued from Page 1A

fighting around another breakaway region of South Ossetia.

The West has sharply criticized Russia's military response to Georgia's attack on South Ossetia as disproportionate, and the world's seven largest economic powers urged Russia on Monday to accept an immediate cease-fire and agree to international mediation.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her colleagues from the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations spoke by telephone and pledged their support for a negotiated solution to the conflict that has been raging since Friday between the former Soviet state and Russia, a State Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the call had not yet been formally announced.

Nana Intskerveli, the Georgian Defense Minis-

try's spokeswoman, said Russian armored personnel carriers rolled into the base in Senaki, about 20 miles inland from the Black Sea port of Poti.

Georgian Interior Ministry spokesman Shota Utia-shvili said Russian forces also took over police stations in the town of Zugdidi — about 20 miles from the base and also outside Abkhazia.

In Moscow, a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to

give his name, confirmed the move into Senaki and said it was intended to prevent Georgian troops from concentrating.

The move followed Rus-

sia's warning to Georgian forces west of Abkhazia to lay down arms or face a Russian military action. Senaki is located about 30 miles east of the Inguri

River, which separates Abkhazia from Georgia proper.

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Early start

Lady Steers begin v-ball play Tuesday

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

Believe it or not, the first meaningful game of the high school sports season in the Crossroads region occurs Tuesday.

Big Spring's Lady Steers begin their volleyball season at 4 p.m. Tuesday, playing a doubleheader against Seminole's Maidens and Sweetwater's Lady Mustangs at Steer Gym.

The new season brings a new face as head coach. Meghan Blake, once a student at Big Spring High School, takes over as the Lady Steers' leading lady this season.

Blake, whose last name was Pudliner when she

was a Lady Steer, played volleyball at Big Spring from 1998 to 2000 before moving with her family to Olathe, Kan. After graduation, she continued her volleyball career at Johnson County Community College where she earned All-American honors in 2003 and was also named the team's MVP that same season.

However, following her sophomore year at JCCC, Blake had surgery on both knees and she ended her playing career. She received her degree from University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Before moving back to Big Spring, she was an assistant volleyball coach

at Metro State College in Denver and also head coached a traveling high school girls team for the past year.

The move back to Big Spring was a difficult decision for Blake, but it isn't one she regrets either.

"I loved Denver, but I feel the female athletes here needed a change and I'm willing to come in and do it," Blake said. "I think that's why I took this job, because I know I can help them get better."

However, she also understands that she's coaching a different level of competition in Texas as opposed to what she had grown accustomed to in Denver.

See **BSHS**, Page 10



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Andrea Claxton (center) spikes the ball over the net as teammates Cerbi Ritchey (left) and Halee Thomas (right) look on in a scrimmage against Abilene High Saturday in Abilene. The Lady Steers play their first game of the season at 4 p.m. Tuesday against Seminole in Steer Gym. They'll then play a second game Tuesday against Sweetwater following the completion of their match with Seminole.

Summer Olympics



AP photo/David J. Phillip

United States swimmer Michael Phelps, right, and his teammate Garret Weber-Gale celebrate winning the gold in the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay final during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, Monday.

Clear road to eight?

Phelps wins gold in IM and relay

The Associated Press

BEIJING — With history about to slip away and Michael Phelps cheering him on, Jason Lezak pulled up next to the lane rope and set out after hulking Alain Bernard, like a NASCAR driver drafting down the backstretch at Daytona.

Only 25 meters to go, half the length of the pool. Every stroke brought Lezak a little closer, a little closer, a little closer, his body seemingly carried along by the Frenchman's massive wake. The two lunged for the wall together. When the result flashed on the board, Phelps was still on course for his record eight gold medals.

By a fingertip. Lezak, the oldest man on the U.S. swimming team, pulled off one of the great comebacks in Olympic history Monday morning, hitting the wall just ahead of Bernard in the 400 freestyle relay, a race so fast it actually erased two world records.

Few sporting events live up to the hype — this one exceeded it. The 32-year-old Lezak was nearly a body length behind Bernard as they made the final turn, but the American hugged the lane rope and stunningly overtook him on the very last stroke.

Wow! "This has been happening my whole career," Lezak said. "People have gotten on my lane line and sucked off of me, so I figured this is the one opportu-

nity in my whole career to do that."

Watching on deck, Phelps let out a resounding "Yeaaaaaah!" and thrust both arms toward the roof of the Water Cube. His quest to break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals had survived what will likely be its toughest test — and almost certainly its most thrilling.

The Americans shattered the world record set by their "B" team the previous evening in the preliminaries, touching with a time of 3 minute, 8.24 seconds — nearly 4 full seconds below the 15-hour-old mark of 3:12.23.

"Unbelievable," said Phelps, who swam the leadoff leg and then became the team's biggest cheerleader. "Jason finished that race better than we could even ask for. I was fired up. Going into that last 50, I was like, 'Aw, this is going to be a close race.' Jason's last 10 or 15 meters were incredible."

Phelps has lived and trained in Ann Arbor, Mich. in recent years.

The Americans won the relay at seven straight Olympics, but watched the Australians and South Africans take gold at the last two games.

"You could tell I was pretty excited," Phelps said. "I lost my voice and I was definitely pretty emotional out there."

See **OLYMPICS**, Page 10

BSHS

Continued from Page 5

"They play volleyball year round in Colorado, which is something we don't do here. That's fine, but I'm hoping we can change that culture some," Blake said. "I hope we can get a group of girls to start going on a traveling team and playing in some tournaments in the area and throughout the state."

First things first, before the Lady Steers even begin to worry about the final results on the

scoreboard, the techniques of their game must be refined, according to Blake.

"Fundamentally, we are not sound. Mechanically, we are not sound. We have a lot of work to do," she said. "I knew that coming in, though."

"I haven't seen the other teams in the district play, so I don't exactly know what we're up against," Blake continued. "I've seen Hereford and Dumas play, but we'd face them in the play-offs, not in district. I know there are going to be some good teams, though. We have the potential to be good, too. Some of these girls

have the ability to play college volleyball if they want. They just have to be willing to put in the work to do so."

The Lady Steers started two-day practices just a week ago and played in two scrimmages in Midland and Abilene over the weekend.

However, they'll get to figure out exactly how far they still have to go as a team Tuesday, playing two matches that actually count.

Big Spring starts its season at 4 p.m. against Seminole and plays a second match — tentatively set for 5 p.m. — against

Sweetwater.

Blake obviously wants the Lady Steers to pick up wins in both matches, but there are more important goals she has for the team throughout the season that will in turn lead to more victories.

"My expectations are simply for us to get better. Not just with our record, but as a team," Blake said. "I want to see improvement in the way we play from varsity to seventh grade. If we had a sixth grade team then I'd expect them to get better, too. I just want to see some improvement at every level. We're going

to be more mechanically sound and more disciplined as a team. The winning and everything else will come as long as we improve in these other areas."

Notes: The junior varsity and freshman teams are also starting their season in doubleheader action against Seminole and Sweetwater Tuesday.

Both teams play at the junior high with the JV playing in the west gym and the freshmen in the east gym.

Each squad's first game starts at 4 p.m.

OLYMPICS

Continued from Page 5

Bernard was the world record holder in the 100, but he surrendered that mark as well. Australia's Eamon Sullivan broke the individual record by swimming the leadoff leg in 47.24 — ahead of Bernard's mark of 47.50.

Oh, by the way, Phelps set an American record leading off, 47.51. But it was Lezak's anchor that everyone will remember. He got down and back in a staggering 46.06, the fastest relay leg in history though it doesn't count as an official record.

Lezak looked at the scoreboard, then leaped out of the water with an emphatic fist pump.

Garrett Weber-Gale and Cullen Jones also did their parts on the middle legs of the relay, overcoming the enormous pressure of making sure they didn't mess up Phelps' attempt to take down the Holy Grail of Olympic records. Jones was the only hold-over from the team that swam in the prelims.

Lezak should get a share of that \$1 million bonus that Phelps has been promised if he goes on to beat Spitz's mark.

"I never lost hope," said Lezak, who trains alone but has been a

longtime stalwart on the relay team. "I don't know how I was able to take it back that fast, because I've never been able to come anywhere near that for the last 50."

While the Americans whooped it up on deck, Bernard clung to the wall, his head down. The swimmer who had talked confidently of beating the Americans — "smashing" them, some media reported — was the last one to leave the pool.

"Alain is wounded. When you are the last swimmer in a relay and that you have the opportunity to bring a title of this importance to your country, you don't get out of this unhurt," said Claude Fauquet, France's team director. "But I don't think that Alain lost the race. It's Lezak who won it."

Though many countries save their best swimmers for the anchor leg, Phelps is more comfortable leading off — especially swimming a distance that is not part of his individual schedule. Lezak is a sprint specialist, and it sure paid off having him in the last spot.

The French were second in 3:08.32 — eight one-hundredths

Olympic medal count

Country	G	S	B	Tot
China	9	3	2	14
United States	3	4	5	12
South Korea	4	4	0	8
Italy	3	3	2	8
Russia	0	4	2	6
Australia	2	0	3	5
France	0	3	2	5
Japan	2	0	2	4
North Korea	0	1	3	4

of a second behind. Australia took the bronze in 3:09.91. In fact, the top five all went below the record set Sunday.

Katie Hoff was again denied a gold medal when Rebecca Adlington of Britain rallied over the final 50 meters to overtake the 19-year-old, who had settled for a bronze the previous day in the 400 individual medley.

Adlington won in 4:03.22, while Hoff took the silver in 4:03.29. Adlington's teammate Joanne Jackson earned the bronze in 4:03.52. Defending champion Laure Manaudou finished last in the eight-woman final.

Hoff still has three more individual events, plus a relay.

President Bush was back at the Water Cube for the second day in a row, with wife Laura on one side, daughter Barbara on

the other. Former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his wife were sitting in front of them, and Bill Gates was right behind.

Clearly, the swimming record book will need some heavy revisions by the time the Beijing Olympics are over.

Two more world marks fell Monday morning when Kosuke Kitajima of Japan finished off American Brendan Hansen's hopes of an individual medal, winning the 100 breaststroke in 58.91.

Kitajima pounded the water defiantly and let out a scream after breaking Hansen's 2-year-old record of 59.13.

Hansen was left without a medal, fading to fourth behind silver medalist Alexander Dale Oen of Norway and Hugues Duboscq of France, who took bronze.

Kirsty Coventry didn't even bother waiting until a final to set a record in the 100 backstroke. The Zimbabwean won her semifinal heat in 58.77, taking down Natalie Coughlin's mark of 58.97 set at the U.S. trials last month.

They'll go head to head in

Tuesday morning's final. Coughlin won her heat in 59.43.

Seven world records have been set through the first 2½ days at the Water Cube.

Phelps had another race to care of, moving on to the final of the 200 free with the fourth-fastest time of the semis. Trying to save as much energy as possible for the leadoff leg of the relay, the American touched in 1:46.28 to finish behind teammate Peter Vanderkaay (1:45.76) and South Korea's Park Tae-hwan (1:45.99).

Jean Basson of South Africa also went faster in the other heat, winning in 1:46.13.

While Hansen still has a swim left in the medley relay, he'll go down as one of the major disappointments of the American team. A one-time world record holder in both the 100 and 200 breaststrokes, he didn't even qualify for the Olympics in the longer race.

Putting all his hopes of beating Kitajima in the 100, he wasn't close to the Japanese star, finishing 0.66 seconds behind.

Libby Trickett of Australia just missed another world record in the women's 100 butterfly, winning gold with a time of 56.73. American Christine Magnuson claimed the silver (57.10) and another Aussie, Jess Schipper, took the bronze (57.25).

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