

Never Say Never

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do what the woman who describes herself as “Simone Biles from Spring, Texas, who flips” does as well as any gymnast — male or female — has ever done.

She flew. She soared off the table and landed with a big bounce — a nod to the energy she generates — with her right foot on the out-of-bounds line.

The judges dinged her a tenth of a point for that. It hardly mattered. Her score of 15.700 meant she

merely needed to avoid disaster on her second vault to win. Instead, she almost stuck her Cheng, which requires a roundoff onto the springboard, and a half twist onto the block followed by 1 1/2 twists while doing a forward somersault. The 14.9 she received meant the fight for gold was over.

Biles has 10 career medals, tied for the third most by a female gymnast in Olympic history. Two more before she heads back to Texas and she would find herself all alone in second behind Larisa Latynina,

who piled up 18 while competing for the Soviet Union in the 1950s and ‘60s. Catching Latynina seems unlikely. Not that it matters much to the “Greatest of All Time.” She’s gained something far more valuable anyway: silence.

Funny how the critics who pounced on her after Tokyo suddenly find themselves speechless after watching her win her third gold medal in Paris.

“They’re really quiet now,” she said with a touch of sarcasm, “so that’s strange.”



A student with their backpack surrounded by school supplies

Some Back-to-School Items Needed this Year

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Rose Haven, a day shelter, lists several drop-off locations for school supplies at its website rosehaven.org/helping/donate-school-supplies. For more information, call 503-248-6364, ext. 0303 or email Angel at astech@rosehaven.org.

The Portland Refugee Support Group, at <https://tinyurl.com/2xfhw96r>, is also sponsoring a drive for backpacks filled with supplies. The website suggests residents get a school supply list from a neighborhood school, fill the backpack with supplies and put a tag on indicating what grade it is for. For more details, contact Kristi at JustServeRefugees@gmail.com.

Since 2018, Operation Back to School has provide 650 fully loaded backpacks to children in Washington and Multnomah counties, by monetary donations through its website at operationbacktoschoolcmh.org.

The nonprofit Impact NW (impactnw.org/news/school-supply-drive-donations) which is focused on preventing homelessness, is also holding a school supply drive through donations, buying supplies from the organization’s Amazon wish list, or dropping off school supply items at the Dancing Tree Family Center at 10055 E. Burnside.

The Gresham Salvation Army is also working to donate school supplies, underwritten by a re-

cent \$29,000 donation from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints for back-to-school supplies for kids in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, as well as shoes and socks for women, children and veterans living in shelters. Details at <https://tinyurl.com/34w2r8x3>.

The Free Store for Teachers (<https://schoolhousesupplies.org/programs/shopping>) provides school supplies at no cost to classrooms in the Centennial, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Parkrose, Portland Public and Reynolds school districts. Teachers at schools where 50 percent or more of students qualify for free and reduced lunch are also eligible to shop. For more details, contact info@schoolhousesupplies.org. The store accepts cash donations and is also supported by more than 20 local businesses and charities.

There may be other entities, including churches and local grocery stores, that also sponsor back to school programs. Fred Meyer, for example, partners with both Salvation Army and KGW-TV.

Supply lists vary from school to school, so check with your local school district to see what is needed. Back-to-school supplies for each of Portland Public Schools’ 86 schools can be found at the website <https://app.teacherlists.com/browse/city/Portland/Oregon>.

Thursday, October 17
6–8 p.m.
PRE-K TO GRADE 5
(PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY)

Sunday, October 20
1–4 p.m.
GRADES 6 TO 12
(PARENTS & STUDENTS)

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