



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE CONNOR

Sisters Dance Academy dancers will show their stuff in the December 15 Holiday Showcase.

DANCERS: Two showcases set for this weekend

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Food Place, or at the door, \$10 for teens and adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under.

The fall session has been in full swing, and with 150 dancers training in styles including ballet, contemporary, jazz, tap and hip hop, the dance academy in Sisters is thriving.

The Performance Ensemble is the Sisters Dance Academy dance team. This group of 25 dancers ranges in ages 11 to 17; each had to audition to be a part of this elite group. These dancers train anywhere from four to 10 hours per week in various styles with the common goal to perform for their

community and to share their talent and love for dance with others.

In October, the Performance Ensemble performed at one of the Sisters High School varsity football games, getting the crowd going with two fun and upbeat dances.

In November, the ensemble performed at the Tower Theatre in the Central Oregon Dance Showcase, an annual event representing all of the dance studios, companies and ensembles in the area.

In December, the Performance Ensemble was invited to dance at the Festival of Trees at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond. Not only did the dancers have a wonderful experience performing at this magical event, but they also

got to enjoy the beautifully decorated trees and the free refreshments and fun activities which included a visit with Santa. The funds raised at the Festival of Trees helps make it possible to provide services to terminally ill people and their families not covered by Medicare or private insurance.

The dance academy will begin its winter/spring session the week of January 8. Classes are free for new students to try. For more information contact Lonnie Liddell at office@sistersdanceacademy.com.

Tax change could chill affordable housing

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — Municipal governments worry the tax overhaul in Washington, D.C. could chill the construction of affordable housing as homelessness reaches a crisis point on the West Coast.

Officials with the housing authority in Portland, Oregon, said Tuesday the U.S. could lose nearly 1 million units of affordable housing over 10 years if the final bill eliminates the tax-exempt status for a type of bond commonly used by developers to finance affordable housing.

That estimate comes from a recent analysis by Novogradac & Co., a San Francisco-based accounting firm that specializes in real estate and affordable housing issues.

While the tax bill is not finalized, developers are now racing to lock in financing and the uncertainty over the bonds has raised upfront costs for some projects, affecting projects from Oregon

to Massachusetts to Illinois to Minnesota. The concern comes at a time when homelessness is soaring on the West Coast amid an acute shortage of affordable housing. Cities, including Portland, are rushing to get projects in the pipeline to address the crisis.

“It’s a little bit of chaos because there’s so much to unpack in the implications of this and folks are scrambling,” Michael Buonocore, executive director of Portland’s housing authority, said in a phone interview. “This is straightforward math and it is not just funding for public housing that is purely funneled through the government. The low-income tax credit fuels ... private industry and lenders too, so it’s across the spectrum.”

More than half of affordable housing projects nationwide rely on a 4 percent tax credit that can only be claimed by a developer if at least half of the construction is financed by private activity bonds. The bonds are awarded by states, with the help of local governments, for qualifying projects.

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Holiday Dance Recital
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