

The



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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'City of Roses'



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Whitney Houston's Farewell

Church where star got start will host funeral

(AP) -- Whitney Houston's funeral will be held Saturday in the church where she first showcased her singing talents as a child, her family choosing to remember her in a private service rather than in a large event at an arena.

The owner of the Whigham Funeral Home in Newark, N.J., said Tuesday that the funeral will be held at noon at the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark.

The funeral service will be by invitation only, Carolyn Whigham said, reflecting the family's decision to keep the memorial more personal.

"They have shared her for 30-some years with the city, with the state, with the world. This is their time now for their farewell," she said. "The family thanks all the fans, the friends and the media, but this time is their private time."

The 48-year-old Houston died Feb. 11 at a hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., just hours before she was set to perform at producer Clive Davis' pre-Grammy Awards bash. Officials say she was underwater and apparently unconscious when she was pulled from a bathtub.

After an autopsy Sunday, authorities said there were



Whitney Houston is pictured during a performance in 2005. The iconic singer died Saturday at the age of 48.



An archive photo shows iconic pop singing sensation Whitney Houston (from left) with her mother, Gospel singer Cissy Houston, and cousin, singer Dionne Warwick.

no indications of foul play, and no obvious signs of trauma on Houston. It could be weeks, however, before the coroner's office completes toxicology tests to establish the cause of death.

Los Angeles County coroner's assistant chief Ed Winter said bottles of prescription medicine were found in the room. He would not give details except to say: "There weren't a lot of prescription bottles. You probably have just as many

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Fiscal Shortfall puts Pinch on Transit

TriMet plans service cuts and higher fares

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A plan to tackle TriMet's projected \$17 million shortfall was announced Wednesday, along with the unveiling of proposed cuts to services and higher fares in an effort to maintain quality and equity throughout the transit agency's service area.



Neil McFarlane

TriMet attributes the deficit to lower revenue from payroll taxes, anticipated cuts in federal funding and unsustainable health care costs for union employees, which make up the majority of workers.

The proposal includes a variety of internal changes at TriMet, including the streamlining of services and layoffs, as well as a switch to a flat fare system, which raises the fare price and eliminates certain routes and the free-rail zone for downtown and the Lloyd Center.

According to TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane, the agency will be focusing more on transit equity and making sure changes don't have a disproportionate im-

act on disadvantaged and minority populations.

Any changes to fares and service would take effect in September.

"We heard very clearly from the public that there is a willingness to pay more if we were able to limit the cuts to needed service," McFarlane said. "We also want to restructure the fare system to make it easier to understand and more equitable."

Currently, TriMet has is already down \$60 million in their annual budget, which accountants said is due in large part to high benefits

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