'Reflections' Anchors Northeast Marketplace

Going with the flow in a changing neighborhood

BY RON WEBER

busy schedule.

Growing up a black child in ible accomplishment for an down and then at the end of African-American woman in the summer her father would the volatile Civil Rights Era. drive down from Detroit and

enterprise was a home construc-

members watching her dad re-When not running one of her model homes. As many homes successful business, Gloria in those days came with unfin-McMurtry is restless. For many ished basements, her dad speyears she filled her days off cialized in that area. Her interwith jogging, 10k runs, hiking, est in the decoration field skiing, camping and an occa- complimented her father's busisional marathon. Today, her fa- ness. With a college degree in vorite hobbies are gardening and Interior Design, she would transreading. She exercises her mind, form a bare basement or any just the way she always had other unfinished room in the exercised her body. Being trim house. The end result was an and fit both physically and men- elegant design that completally is paramount to keep up her mented any part of the home or upgraded the entire house.

While living in Detroit, mid-20th century Detroit was Gloria had two brothers and not an easy task, especially if one sister. Her parents were you were female. But Gloria first generation transplants took it all in stride. An ex- from the South. As a young tremely independent young girl, she has found memories woman, she started helping of spending her summers with her father in his construction aunts and uncles in Arkansas business. Later she would own or Mississippi. She and her her own businesses, an incred- siblings would ride the train McMurtry's first successful bring them all home in the car.

Not one to follow the foottion business that remodeled in- steps of traditional mid 20th centeriors. As far back as the post tury women, Gloria also spent a World War II period, she re- number a years working sales

for the Mobile Oil in the 1970s female during this period, but ever, Gloria did not let this ste-

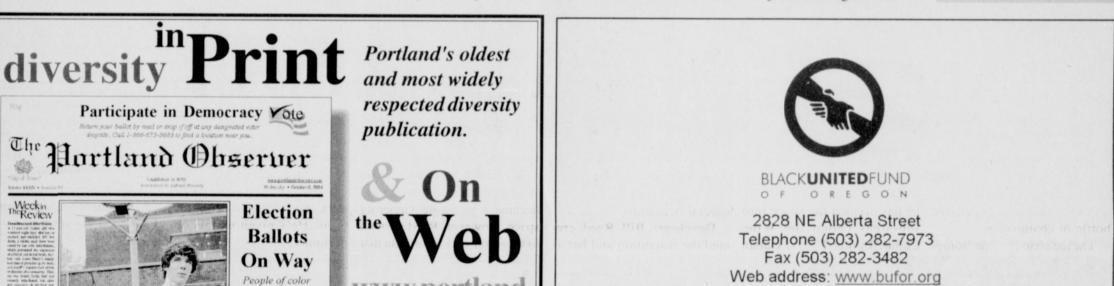
extremely daunting task for a were a black woman. How- the job and was good at it.

location at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Killingsworth Street.

and early 1980s. This was an was almost impossible if you reotyping bother her. She loved

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER





Gloria McMurtry established the first business in the newly built Walnut Business Center, the former Fred Meyer



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