

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## First Black Forest Supervisor Writes Memoir

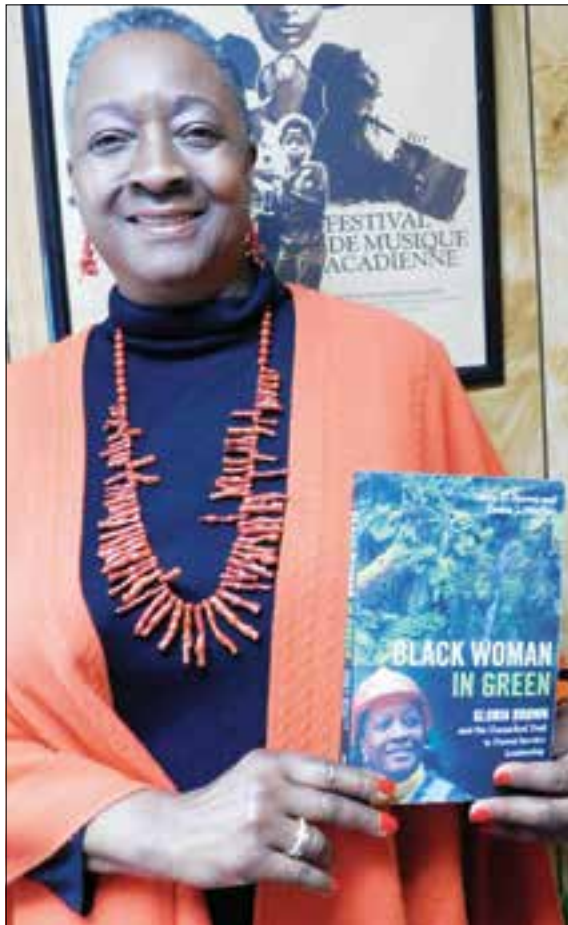
### Portland woman tells story of her historic journey

By BEVERLY CORBELL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When Gloria Brown was just 30 years old and the mother of three small children, her husband was killed by a drunk driver. Her future looked bleak, but through perseverance, hard work and smarts, she ascended and became the first African American woman to be named a Forest Supervisor with the U.S. Forest Service.

Brown has written a book along with history professor Donna Sinclair, about her experiences in the Forest Service titled "Black Woman in Green," recently published by Oregon State University Press.

Brown recently sat down with the Portland Observer to talk about her journey. She said she was working for the Forest Service as a clerical worker in Washington, D.C. when



Gloria Brown, the first African American woman to attain the rank of Forest Supervisor at the U.S. Forest Service, has written a book about her experiences, 'Black Woman in Green,' recently published by Oregon State University Press.

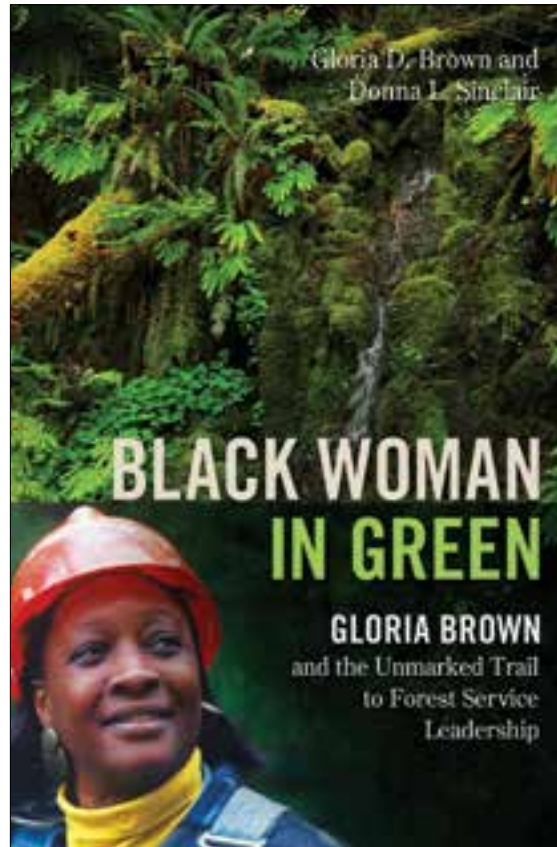


PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

her husband was killed and she knew she had to work hard to make ends meet. People of color didn't have great opportunities for advancement in D.C., so she asked for a transfer so she could move up and make more money to support her children. She was hoping to go to Atlanta, but instead was sent to Missoula, Mont. where she ran into blatant racism.

She had been in Montana for several years when her daughter, Nicki, who was in high school, was attacked and called the N-word by a white girl, the captain of the basketball team. Her daughter fought back and both girls were suspended, but Brown soon learned that the white girl was continuing to go to basketball practice. When she asked the assistant principal why, she was told that the school "didn't have these problems" until her children came into the school system.

Outraged, she contacted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

**LoribyDesygn**



Lori A. Martin  
Custom Memorial Keepsakes  
971.888.4099  
Memorial Folders  
Video Presentations  
Web Designs  
www.loribydesygn.com



Actors from Portland's PassinArt production of "Seven Guitars." The dramatic play about African American life in the 20th Century was cancelled Monday just as it was scheduled to begin because of concerns over the coronavirus epidemic.

## 'Seven Guitars' Canceled

Passinart, the theater group grounded to Portland's African American community, announced Monday the cancellation of its latest production "Seven Guitars." The dramatic play by August Wilson was scheduled to begin a one

month run this week at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.

Passinart said they made the decision to cancel the production to ensure the safety and health of the public, artists, staff and volun-

teers in light of recommendations by public health officials to limit group events to fight the spread of the coronavirus epidemic.

If you have already purchased a ticket, you can request a refund by emailing [passinart@yahoo.com](mailto:passinart@yahoo.com) or you can donate your ticket(s) back to Passinart and receive a donation receipt.

### Subscribe! 503-288-0033

Fill Out & Send To:

**The Portland Observer**

Attn: Subscriptions, PO Box 3137, Portland OR 97208  
\$45.00 for 3 months • \$80.00 for 6 mo. • \$125.00 for 1 year  
(please include check with this subscription form)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

or email [subscriptions@portlandobserver.com](mailto:subscriptions@portlandobserver.com)