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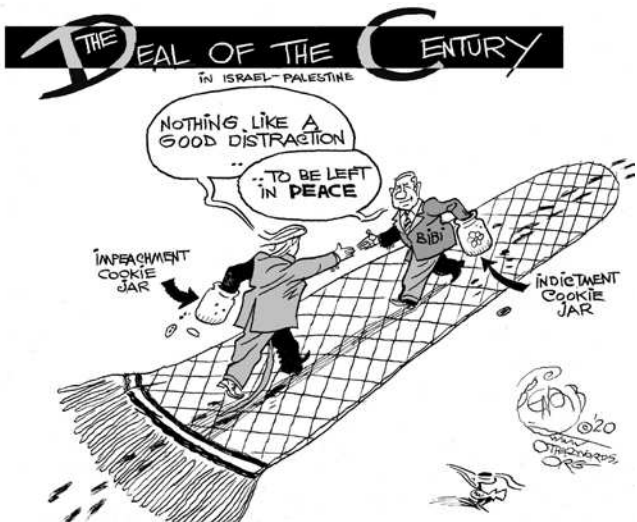


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PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Goodness Adfope, who came to Portland from Nigeria to attend Concordia University, is looking for another school now that Concordia is closing its doors.

Concordia to Shut Down Surprise decision stuns college community

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Goodness Adfope was still in shock on Monday afternoon upon learning his school was going to close. Concordia University, a northeast Portland landmark serving a diverse population, will close its doors after 115 years of operation.

There was no warning to students that the private college, founded by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1905, will permanently close after this semester, and many were in tears at the news, Adfope said.

"It feels really sad," said the second semester

freshman. "I'm new here and am just now making friends."

Adfope said when he told his family back in Nigeria, they agreed that he should stay in Portland and look for another school.

He said he will try to enroll Portland State University, which announced it is ready help Concordia and to "provide any needed assistance to the university and its students during this difficult time."

Concordia's interim president, Tim Ries, who joined the staff only a month ago, said the school's board of directors decided Friday that the university's current and projected enrollment declines and poor finances "make it impossible to continue its educational mission."

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Breast Cancer Survivor Celebration

An invite is out for breast cancer survivors and fighters from the African American community to enjoy a night of music, appetizers and beverages, along with a discussion of initiatives to help fight cancer in the community, coming Saturday, Feb. 22 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Village Ballroom, 704 N.E. Dekum St.

"This celebration is a monumental occasion to honor survivors/fighters and encourage the African American and all cultures to stay rooted in their healthcare advocacy," said Arya Morman, a member of a Susan G. Komen Oregon and Southwest Washington advisory council of leaders in the community, area health systems and businesses.

During the event, Komen representatives will update the community on recent data collection efforts and progress in developing an innovative, multi-year project

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Arya Morman, 2020 Ms. Black International Ambassador, and a clinical operations manager for Lifeworks NW, is helping promote a Feb. 22 cancer survivor celebration geared to the African American community.