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DISTRICT

TCC board of trustees election upcoming

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Tarrant County voters will be selecting two members of the TCC board of trustees in its election that ends May 6.

The board is composed of seven elected officials who represent districts throughout the county. Early voting started April 24 and ends May 2, and Election Day is May 6.

District 4 has three candidates running: incumbent Bill Greenhill, Larry Dale Carpenter Jr. and Laura Forkner Pritchett. Greenhill was initially elected to the board in May 2010, and he's seeking his fourth term as trustee. District 5 has two candidates: incumbent Leonard Hornsby and challenger Jabranica "Nikki" Stroba.

Jack Reynolds' name will also appear on the ballot for District 4,

but he has since suspended his campaign and given his endorsement to Carpenter Jr.

"Larry committed to me personally that he would be a voice for the staff and faculty at TCC," Reynolds said. "Their issues and concerns have gone unaddressed for far too long, and they have languished too long in a toxic work environment that elevates sycophantic obedience over effective educational instruction and leadership."

Carpenter Jr., a former TCC student, has run previously for county commissioner and is the son of former Tarrant County sheriff Don Carpenter. His campaign is mainly focused on the taxpayers and representing them within the board because he feels the trustees are not doing a good enough job, he said.

"The board is obviously not representing the taxpayer, and that's actually completely proven in the



Photo (left) by Joel Solis/The Collegian | Photos (center, right) courtesy of campaign websites
 Bill Greenhill, Larry Dale Carpenter Jr. and Laura Forkner Pritchett are running for the District 4 seat on the board of trustees. Early voting started on April 24 and ends May 2, Election Day is May 6.

way that they've acted recently with raising of the taxes," he said.

The main point of contention between the candidates in District 4 is the property tax rate levy ap-

proved in September 2022. While the tax rate itself did not change, property taxes still raised for Tarrant County residents due to rising property appraisals.

Carpenter Jr. said another main point in his campaign, if he's elected, is to take a deep look into the bond program at TCC and
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Photo by Alex Hoben/The Collegian | Illustration by Markus Meneses/The Collegian

NE Pride Club president Jane Mahoney and her TCC student ID with a piece of tape over her deadname and instead her chosen name drawn over it along with a cartoon drawing of a cat.

The Power of Names

LGBTQ+ students open up about deadnames

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A name is a fundamental part of a person's personality. Yet, for some trans and nonbinary students at TCC, the right to be referred to by their chosen name is taken away.

Deadnaming is the practice of referring to trans and nonbinary individuals by their birth names rather than the name that best represents their identity. For many in the LGBTQ+ community, being deadnamed invalidates their identity, leading to stress and even trauma.

At TCC, many students in the queer community have noticed a disparity between the message of inclusivity that drives the college and

what is actually offered to students.

"It feels like TCC does not care about preferred names at all, even if the individual students overwhelmingly," Amber, a NE student said.

Amber, who declined to give her last name due to a fear of retaliation from those around her, said that while her social experience with students has been fine as a trans woman, the same could not be said for official institutions such as Canvas, especially when there are class rosters that still present deadnames.

"I couldn't find anybody in Canvas who had a preferred name," she said. "Even though I did find multiple people using their dead names, even people that are

publicly out, which should tell you something about the way the TCC handles naming."

NE student Jane Mahoney said she has had an overall positive experience regarding teachers and students respecting her name and pronouns, but there are still disparities in the system with attendance.

"I have always put Jane as my name for classwork and have yet to have an issue with it," she said. "However, on attendance sheets, when passed around or on the first day of class, some teachers initially called me by my deadname. This is incredibly embarrassing. It feels like everyone in the class now knows that I am transgender. That is an uncomfortable

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Abortion pill access temporarily approved

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The U.S. Supreme Court decided April 21 that a widely used abortion pill, mifepristone, would be available temporarily through the mail.

U.S. Northern District of Texas Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk ordered April 7 that the drug be banned through mail nationwide, saying the FDA was wrong in its ruling in 2000 to approve the drug.

Based on the evidence presented by the FDA and the Biden administration, the Supreme Court allowed mifepristone to be used, preventing Kacsmaryk's order from going into effect.

NE student Alexa Rangel said the ruling prohibits women's choices to plan according to their personal accessibility preferences like mailing. She believed Kacsmaryk filed the order for the wrong reason.

"I think the people in the court [Kacsmaryk] are more concerned about a life that's not been brought

in yet, rather than the one that's going to have to worry about those decisions later," she said.

Like Ragel, NE student Myles Troung said anyone should be able to make decisions regarding their bodies and that mifepristone should not be banned.

"If someone decides to go through with that path then so be it, if not then that's their choice," he said.

The choice of the Supreme Court and decisions on abortions is pushing NE student Victoria Bradley to think about leaving Texas and the U.S. Trying to change the world as a person of color has become too difficult.

"The idea of me having to make a change is scary because when people don't agree with certain people that look like me, it gets very violent," Bradley said. "I'm fearful of the outcome if I did try to change it or put a bigger target on my back for just existing."

Bradley believed that abortions will continue to happen but
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WebAdvisor shutdown has left an impact on students

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Following WebAdvisor's shutdown, TCC has shed light on the campuses' relation to the now defunct interface, as well as provided some further context behind its shutdown.

The beginning of April marked the end of TCC's support of WebAdvisor, a student portal used to provide students with a reliable way to access important TCC information. The system was provided to TCC thanks to Ellucian Colleague, a cloud-based software system designed to help various institutions manage their information and informational systems.

According to SoftwareAdvice, a database for information on various software applications, Ellucian seeks to "helps higher education institutions with professional solutions to create a connected campus," and is a platform that intends to provide "solutions for departments such as finance, IT, student services, human resources, recruiting and admissions."

TCC utilized Ellucian Col-

league and its software system for upwards of 20 years according to TR director of application development Kenneth Smith.

"WebAdvisor was a component of the Ellucian Colleague Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and was first implemented at TCC when we migrated over to Colleague, circa 2001-2003," Smith said. "TCC used it because it was part of the ERP they had selected and supported by the same ERP vendor. It was the part of the system that provided the student portal which allowed students to register for classes and pay tuition."

The plan to move away from WebAdvisor had been discussed for quite a while. This can be attributed to TCC wanting to provide more advanced systems for the campuses and Ellucian itself moving away from that component of the system as well, according to Smith.

"Ellucian created a new and improved version of their student portal called self-service, which we call MyTCCTrack," Smith said. "This effectively made the old student portal obsolete. The vendor provided functionality for students that is now being provided by their
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NORTHEAST

Students navigate transitioning into adulthood

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Many students are experiencing a phase of transition – becoming more independent as they step into adulthood.

“Adulthood”, a popular term used to describe new adults subscribing to a new lifestyle and leaving experiences associated with childhood behind, can be difficult. Especially when trying to balance multiple facets of one’s life, such as school, work, hobbies, friends and family.

“Some tasks I consider to be ‘adulthood’ are getting your oil changed, paying your taxes on time, or being early to a meeting at work,” NE student Anna Jones said.

She thinks “adulthood” is problem solving, being punctual and accountable.

Jones is a part-time student and full-time hairstylist. She said that managing time is a hard skill to master, but she’s learned that doing small tasks throughout the week works better for her than doing the bulk of her tasks in one day.

“Taking an hour to clean my house every night instead of taking one day of the week to clean, or studying for smaller amounts of time after work instead of skimming over the day before the test,” Jones said. “Getting myself on a strict routine was the best way for me to understand how to balance my life.”

Finding the time to do school work while



KJ Means/The Collegian

NE student Jason Holly presents the Timeline Sports segment of the TCC Newsfeed. Students can work on the Newsfeed to get on-the-job experience.

working can be stressful.

“I do my homework during breaks or after school,” SE student Pauline Pham said. “I always feel like I’m in a time crunch, so that kind of sucks but I just kind of have to deal with it.”

Pham takes classes Tuesdays and Thursdays while working two jobs. She said that while balancing school and work is manageable, her high school experience didn’t prepare

her well for life after graduation.

“I don’t think high school prepared me because I graduated COVID year, so I was just at home and then I got sent straight into college,” she said. “It was an adjustment.”

Having a strong support system can be imperative during times of change and growth. NE assistant professor Mary Buck said having a strong social support system helps reduce

stress, increases life satisfaction and well being.

“In times of transition having good social support is key,” Buck said. “So, use your resources and seek advice from family and friends.”

When it comes to managing money, Jones said what advice she’d give to those who are new to budgeting.

“The best advice I can give to someone who is learning to manage their money for the first time is ‘it’s not what you make, it’s what you spend,’” she said. “Not saying you can’t treat yourself, or buy nice things, but genuinely be conscious about the money you are spending and always pay your bills first.”

Knowing that asking questions is okay is something Pham said is important for students to be aware of.

“Always ask questions,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to ask people that are older than you questions because they’ve been where you’re at and can help you.”

For those who feel unsure or anxious about where they are in life Jones said what she’d want students to know about success, and appreciating what you do have.

“If I could give some advice to students who are nervous about becoming independent I would tell them that it’s okay to make mistakes and ask questions,” she said. “That’s how you learn. Success looks different for everyone, so take the time to learn what yours looks like and be grateful for everything because it can always be worse.”

Abortion (continued from page 1)

procedures will occur in a more dangerous and uncomfortable way and preparing the youth for this possibility is the best way to move forward.

“We need to really look into the people that we vote for and want to have our vote,” they said. “I want the public to be more knowledgeable in who they vote for, what they stand for. Because it feels as if we are trapped watching these people that are supposed to advocate for us, not advocate for us. But at the same time, it is kind of

our fault for getting them there in the first place.”

They said they would like the Supreme Court justices to consider the youth, the elderly and those who should not bear children as it affects more than just pregnancy.

“Now you’re having a child that you don’t even want. That resentment, that hate is going to be harbored in your body,” they said. “You’re going to eventually grow up to hate this child that didn’t even ask to be born.”

Abortions will still happen but in a more dangerous fashion with an increasing death rate, they said.

Since this is a controversial and emotional kind of conversation, they said they would feel more comfortable discussing this issue even if they had a differing stance. They felt that the conversation surrounding abortion is nuanced, affecting race, sex, sexuality, gender and more as it is a broad topic to them.

Names (continued from page 1)



Photo by Alex Hoben/The Collegian | Illustration by Markus Meneses/The Collegian

TR SGA president Milo Norris smiles as he holds up his student ID with a piece of tape covering his deadname.

thought for classmates to know something so personal.”

Mahoney utilized the service provided by the TCC registrar’s office to have her “preferred name” used on documents such as attendance sheets. But she said that it’s not enough and instead can be potentially dangerous, considering the way the name shows on the records is having their deadname and then their preferred name in parentheses after it.

“Meaning that everyone is still able to see your deadname,” she said. “Having your deadname on an attendance sheet when you have expressed your preferred name is unnecessary and possibly hurtful. Not only are you outing this person to the entire class, but if a transphobic person decides to take action, you are now putting this person in potential danger.”

Amber said that she didn’t know there was a system in place to add preferred names, even in parentheses, because it’s hard to find any information about it. She couldn’t find any page on the TCC website for how to start the process.

Chloe October, a nonbinary NE student, said they wish there was more choice about what name was used in private and public spaces, especially in the email system.

“I feel violated when I am deadnamed – like someone used the name of a late relative too soon. It makes the environment feel more hostile,” October said. “The TCC naming system never changing, even after a legal name change, makes me feel like a nagging annoyance. I sort of gaslight my-

self into thinking it’s somehow my fault for finding my identity too late.”

Amber said it doesn’t make sense that TCC’s naming system doesn’t have much flexibility considering that it’s the IDs that are how the student is designated in the system.

“We can change our name 50 times in a semester and as far as the TCC database is concerned, nothing’s going to change,” she said. “So I don’t understand why exactly they’re so hellbent on keeping the deadname. You should just be able to change the name whenever you need to because they’ve got the ID, and the ID is constant.”

District registrar John Spencer said any students looking to change their chosen first names may do so by completing the Records Maintenance Form and submitting it by email to academic.records@tccd.edu or they can do so by submitting a name change request form to the admissions and registrar’s office.

“Using a chosen name in the classroom and on our campus frontlines is a proven best practice,” Spencer said. “It not only empowers students but also fosters an environment of inclusion, respect and dignity. This practice helps in promoting safe and welcoming spaces at each of our campuses.”

Spencer said students can advocate for changes by talking with their student government association.

TR SGA president Milo Norris said that while he hasn’t been deadnamed a lot at TCC he has been misgendered quite a few times and explained how being dead-

named and misgendered is not only harmful for the trans community but for society as a whole.

“Whether on purpose or by accident, these actions are divisive,” he said. “What we need is to recognize that trans people are just other people. My transness does give me a different perspective on life, but everyone has a different perspective on life.”

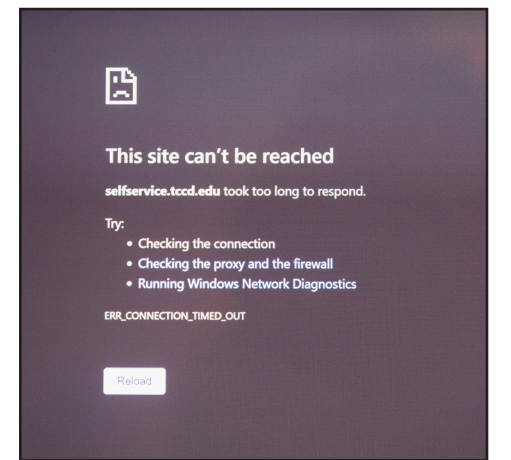
Referring to someone by their preferred name is a basic form of respect, Mahoney and October said, and that many don’t realize how such a simple act can mean so much for the person they’re referring to.

“I just want to point out how low the bar is, that referring to someone as the correct gender or with the right name could be enough to make their day,” October said. “That speaks a lot to the trans experience.”

Amber said she doesn’t mind as much as some others in the LGBTQ+ community when she is deadnamed, but that doesn’t mean it’s an OK thing to do. She has realized that what is most important to her is that the people close to her know her identity as she has realized it.

“I think a while ago I kind of came to terms with the fact that the first thing that everyone’s gonna see when they think about me is the fact that I’m trans,” she said. “And then it just kind of became, how can I make the best of that? And then I made the best of that.”

WebAdvisor (continued from page 1)



Joel Solis/The Collegian

Error screen shown when trying to access the student self-service website page for TCC students.

new student portal

TCC had been chipping away at developing this system, and the remaining information available on WebAdvisor moved to Hello!TCC to give students the best possible experience when interacting with TCC resources.

“The site has been purposely designed to help them find exactly what they are looking for very quickly,” Smith said. “It has a built-in filtering system, so they don’t have to scour the site to find the link they need. It also provides them with the ability to bookmark frequently used links for quick access.”

After nearly a month, some of the changes and new systems that have emerged in WebAdvisor’s wake have been a source of frustration for students.

“I actually don’t use WebAdvisor much for work, and I haven’t used any of the new Hello!TCC applications yet,” NE student worker Jordin Bryan said. “I did find the new TimeClock a little on the frustrating side – mostly because I wasn’t used to using it, but also I go into work straight from class, so having to wait to start my computer and start the applications to be able to clock in was annoying.”

The absence of WebAdvisor and the new systems in its place have been unreliable and inconvenient for some students as well, like NE student worker Anastasia Anderson.

“The issues with the new system have been, and are continuing to be rather inconvenient,” she said. “In addition to having problems clocking in, I was just trying to add a newly-added class to my fall schedule and the system is down.”

With these systems, Anderson has become worried for the upcoming semester, believing that they won’t be able to register for classes because of technical inconsistencies.

“I will not have time at work to keep checking the system to see if TCC track is back up,” she said. “I worry that I will not be able to take Cal 2 in the fall due to these outages, which will undoubtedly put me behind on my degree plan.”

Despite student concerns and frustrations, Smith assured campus-goers the shift will be worth it in the long run.

“We also greatly extended [WebAdvisor]’s functionality by incorporating many custom applications into it, and those applications were safely migrated to another system called Hello!TCC,” Smith said. “The shutdown of WebAdvisor is a good thing because MyTCCTrack is a new, modern student portal and will be fully supported by the ERP vendor for years to come.”