

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Cindy Smith**  
**(432) 264-5034; 517-0073**

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Staff Writer: Steve Reagan  
(432) 263-7331 x 234

### **Renovations To Pick Up Pace at Howard College**

In the coming months, hard hats will threaten to outnumber books and computers at Howard College. Renovation projects brought about by a voter-approved \$23 million bond will kick into overdrive once spring semester classes let out in May, college officials announced. An update on the status of the various projects will be discussed when the college trustees hold their monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the student union building Tumbleweed Room.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said the work tempo for the campus-wide renovations is about to increase significantly. The first order of summer business will be asbestos abatement at the Horace Garrett and administration buildings. Trustees will consider bids for that project Monday, with work expected to begin as soon as possible after classes let out for the summer. "We'll do abatement on the Horace Garrett Building first, right after graduation," Sparks said. "And we expect to begin abatement of the administration building toward the end of June."

Administrative staff will be shuffled over to Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, where temporary offices have already been set up in the East Room. Personnel who were displaced by earlier work will begin moving back into their newly renovated offices on the A and E wings of the administration building, Sparks said. One of the driving forces behind construction plans, Sparks said, has been to minimize classroom disruption — a goal that will not be completely met, she admitted. "Some classes are going to have to be displaced," she said. "We're working on plans to deal with those situations."

Other major projects scheduled for the summer include work on an addition for the science building and upgrades to college utility systems — heating, air conditioning, ventilation and sewer.

Also Monday, trustees will consider:

- A remodeling project at the San Angelo campus' West Texas Training Center.
- Naming the workforce training center at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf.
- An update on the SWCID Program Enhancement Initiative.
- Personnel matters.
- Approval of a bid for purchase of property held in trust by Coahoma Independent School District.

- Steve Reagan