



SKIP DICKSTEIN/TIMES UNION

RENOVATIONS at SPAC will continue through the winter, with work expected to be finished by May 1.

SPAC: Another \$6 million needed

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and more comfortable than the old seats made of hard plastic that have been discarded.

"This will really help us provide a better setting for our future audience," White said.

While the seats will have the biggest effect on audience members, other work also will be done.

Improvements will be made to the house and aisle lights; new makeup and dressing room tables will be added; walls will be repainted; and new carpets, flooring and walls will be installed in the rehearsal rooms. Drainage issues also are being addressed.

At the rear of the stage, the back wall of the rehearsal rooms has been removed so a new floor

can be installed. The ballet dancers have had to contend with a rehearsal floor that sloped slightly.

The \$2.1 million worth of improvements underwritten by the state come after an additional \$2 million was allocated by Gov. George Pataki and state Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno to replace the amphitheater roof, repair the Geysers Creek pedestrian bridge, paint the acoustical canopy, remove asbestos, upgrade the backstage sanitary system and do air-conditioning and heating work.

SPAC still needs an additional \$6 million for work on its parking lots, concessions, curbing and the amphitheater exterior. The state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation estimates

the remaining improvements on the amphitheater exterior will run about \$2 million.

SPAC is an important attraction for the Capital Region when it comes to luring high-tech companies, White said. The facility adds to the overall quality of life, which is a major factor that companies such as Advanced Micro Devices consider when determining whether to build a computer chip factory in the Luther Forest Technology Campus.

"It isn't just an entertainment venue," White said. "It's a quality-of-life issue."

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