

# Work starts on amphitheater roof

**Installation should be complete by early May**

**By Kevin Flowers**

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The new permanent roof at Highmark Amphitheater at Liberty Park is under construction.

Work crews from Erie's E.E. Austin & Son Inc., 1919 Reed St., started installing the roof's wooden skeleton this week.

Foundation work has already been completed.

The Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority's board of directors previously approved a \$557,000 construction bid from E.E. Austin to handle the construction of a permanent roof over the amphitheater, which is located on the city's west bayfront.

A storm on June 12, 2015, destroyed the fabric canopy that had covered the amphitheater stage for nearly 20 years.

The permanent roof, which should be finished



**Construction is underway on the new permanent roof at Highmark Amphitheater at Liberty Park on Thursday. Work on the roof is expected to be completed by early May.** [DAVE MUNCH/ERIE TIMES-NEWS]

by early May, will be a type of hard plastic called thermoplastic polyolefin, supported by glue-laminated wood beams.

Erie Architect Jeff Kidder has said the roof will save the Port Authority from storing and repairing a fabric canopy, and it will provide a long-term way to minimize maintenance costs. Kidder's

firm, Kidder Wachter Architecture & Design, was hired by the Port Authority to design the permanent roof.

The Port Authority in September announced a two-year, \$60,000 naming-rights deal with Highmark for the venue. Brenda Sandberg, the Port Authority's executive director, has said revenue from any naming-rights agreement

would be used to defray the cost of the roof project.

The Port Authority is also using about \$70,000 in insurance proceeds, along with its own money, to pay for the new roof.

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