

Press Statement October 20, 2021



Starting in 2022, the Lewiston Memorial Armory will be home to the “**Lewiston-Auburn Maples**,” a professional women’s basketball team who is kicking off their 2022 season in the Women’s American Basketball Association (WABA). The LA Maples will sign a five-year agreement with the City of Lewiston for use of the Lewiston Armory, and the first season will be July 2022 - October 2022. The season will feature 8 - 12 home games at the Armory, with the possibility of hosting playoff games. The LA Maples organization will be the WABA’s 35th expansion team and will be competing against other franchises from around the United States. Josh Brister, who is team co-owner with Jen Buchanan, had reached out to Recreation Director Nicole Welch in May.

Recreation Director Welch stated, ***“The Lewiston Armory has been home to a wide range of events for nearly 100 years. We are looking forward to welcoming the LA Maples to the City next summer and are excited to help showcase professional women’s basketball in Lewiston.”***

At the October 19, 2021, City Council meeting, elected officials enthusiastically embraced the new team, and co-team owner Josh Brister praised the Armory for its uniqueness and sense of community. Mayor Mark Cayer stated, ***“What a great offering to attract folks to Lewiston! The presence of the LA Maples is another boost to the vitality of our community and certainly adds to our appeal for economic development and continued growth.”***

City Administrator Heather Hunter concurs, ***“I am delighted to have the LA Maples call the City of Lewiston home. It’s such a wonderful opportunity to enhance the sports tourism available in Lewiston, provide role models for our youth, and engage our community. On behalf of the City of Lewiston, I want to welcome the Maples to Lewiston, knowing they will discover that opportunity does live here and wish them the best of luck in their maiden season.”***

Brister noted, ***“To have a chance to bring professional women's basketball to a venue like the Armory, it was a no brainer. There we hope to utilize the game of basketball to create life-changing opportunities for women looking to further their professional playing careers, while also creating lasting opportunities for those in the Lewiston- Auburn community. We have a number of important community initiatives we hope to launch such as The Maple Mentor Group & The Share A Smile Initiative. Along with Maple’s initiatives, we also plan to host a food truck & block party festival, golf tournament, and a family day concert. The Lewiston-Auburn***

Maples are extremely excited and fortunate to be able to call the historic City of Lewiston home, and we pledge to do our part in helping Lewiston-Auburn strive for years to come.”

Over the next few months, Jim Seavey, President of Basketball – LA Maples, will put the finishing touches on the inaugural season with the signing of players and schedule development. To keep up with the LA Maples and WABA, they may be followed on all social media platforms.

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