



Shangri La' Wiffleball

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Bernard Ablinger Retirement Party to Coincide With 2007 Classic *Teams to Be Announced Before the End of Weekend*

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Bernard J. Ablinger, the long-time SLW owner operator and local legend, will be honored on Saturday, June 30th at a retirement party that will take place at the Grand Shangri La' Ballroom. Festivities will begin sometime around 7:00 p.m.

As a result, a sellout and record crowd is expected to witness the 14th Annual Shangri La' Classic. The awards ceremony will take place following the tournament at the pavilion.

SLW Lifetime Achievement Honorees Dee Dee Hixson and Charlene Pope will be hosting the soiree. Chuck Crupper, of the widely renowned Chuck's Locker, will be catering the function Saturday night.

Ablinger (84) officially retired last month after almost seven decades of service at the Ablinger Brothers Hardware Store as the owner/operator. He will continue to serve as the Mayor of Ivesdale as he has done for 44 years.

"He has been and will continue to be a staple of the both the Ivesdale community and Champaign County," Commissioner Jaime Hixson said. "I'm going to dedicate my performance this year to The Mayor."

"The hardware business will never be the same," added SLWAA President Geoff Hixson. "The Alumni is looking forward to his increased role in conjunction with our organization."

"As Ivesdale loses a local businessman, Shangri La' gains full-time retiree," Hall of Famer Jed Pope stated. "I wish him the best in his new endeavors."

Ablinger was recently featured in an article in the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette. That article can be found here: <http://www.geocities.com/slwiffleball23/Releases/bjanewsgazettearticle.pdf>

In other news, the draft will begin on Wednesday, June 20th. Teams will be announced by the end of the weekend.

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Shangri La' Wiffleball website now available at: www.myspace.com/slwiffleball