

# Pizarro: Bill Wilson Center's newest facility honors CEO Sparky Harlan

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The board of directors at the nonprofit Bill Wilson Center added a nice touch to its recently opened Peacock Commons affordable housing complex by naming its community room after CEO Sparky Harlan.

Harlan has been dedicated to helping at-risk youth at Bill Wilson Center for 29 years and is a well-known advocate and expert on youth issues.

The nearly 50 young adults who moved into the facility this spring will be able to use the community room, called Sparky's Place, for activities like potluck dinners and workshops.

BOOK 'EM: You may recall that former San Jose police Chief Joseph McNamara, now a fellow at the Hoover Institution, wrote a few detective thrillers in the 1980s and early 1990s. Well, he's written a new "cop noir" potboiler titled "Love and Death in Silicon Valley."

The plot, as described on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), concerns Mexican gang wars, a sleazy district attorney and a sheriff named Rusty trying to survive it all. Probably no mention in there of the Facebook IPO, which, in Silicon Valley these days, seems to be the biggest tale of love and death ever told.

INDEPENDENCE HALL: Santa Clara County's Filipino-American community will celebrate the Philippines' independence day Sunday at Eastridge Mall in San Jose. Festivities, which start at 10 a.m., include a community resource fair, music and dance performances.

The Philippines flag will be raised in front of San Jose City Hall on Tuesday, June 12, which was the date in 1898 when the nation declared its freedom from Spain.

STRIKE UP THE BAND: Thanks to a lead donation from university benefactor Phyllis Simpkins, the San Jose State marching band raised \$120,000 and will sport new uniforms and equipment when the Spartans' football season starts in the fall.

TITLE IX TRIP: Charlotte Mackay wrote to tell me about a trip to Santa Rosa made last week by members of the San Jose branch of the American Association of University Women. The branch's Sports Equity and Art Appreciation groups went to the Charles Schulz Museum to see "Leveling the Playing Field," an exhibit celebrating the 40th anniversary of Title IX.

The "Peanuts" cartoonist was a big supporter of the landmark law that created athletic opportunities for women and girls. The exhibit runs through Aug. 12.