

Newly renovated Nancy J. Land Center to combat homelessness

Staff Reports

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YWCA of Knoxville and Tennessee Valley officially opened the doors of the 100-year-old, newly renovated downtown building now called the Nancy J. Land Center.

The ribbon cutting and celebration were planned to be held on Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 10:30 a.m. at YWCA at 420 W. Clinch Ave. in downtown Knoxville.

The center will support and expand the Jenny Boyd Keys of Hope Program for Women, which combats homelessness and ensures women in need have the chance to rebuild lives devastated by domestic abuse, addiction, loss and other challenges.

The recent renovation added nearly 30 percent more resident rooms to the building and expanded the program to provide services for more than 200 women each year who otherwise would be homeless.

The program has a proven success rate: 90 percent of women who complete the Keys of Hope program secure employment and independent housing.

The program is a proven solution to homelessness at a fraction of the cost. The YWCA invests nearly \$6,000 per woman per year while the annual taxpayer cost to support a chronically homeless person is estimated at more than \$40,000.

Pamela Michele Gray (née Bailey) passed away Dec. 27, 2025, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

She was born April 25, 1952, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and spent her early years in Hopwood before her family relocated to the Pittsburgh area. She attended elementary schools in Hopwood, Bethel Park and Mt. Lebanon, and graduated from The Village Academy in Bethel Park. She later attended Penn State University and graduated from the Gemological Institute of America.

While in college, Pam discovered her gift for computer technology. After working in Harrisburg for the State of Pennsylvania, she moved to the Washington, D.C., area, where she met and married her husband, Bob. Pam built a successful career in the tech



Gray

industry as a senior systems analyst and senior systems engineer. She worked for USA Today, the Bureau of National Affairs, MCI Communications and Qwest Communications. Though she received numerous professional awards, she most valued the personal letters of appreciation from team members she mentored.

Pam had a deep love for dogs, birds and gardening. She was an avid reader, especially drawn to historical subjects.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clifford and Althea B. Bailey, and her brother, Charles B. Tackaberry.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Gray; sister, Maureen McMahan; stepson, Greg Gray (Viki); nieces, Christina Bevill (Chad) and Madison Imhof (Seth); nephew, Brandon McMahan; grandnephews, Cy and Colbey Bevill; and her beloved beagle, Mia.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the ASPCA (aspca.org), Mercy Chefs (mercychefs.com) or Samaritan's Purse (samaritanspurse.org).

Judith "Judy" Sewell Herbert, age 84 of Farragut, passed away on Thursday, January 1, 2026. She loved spending time with her family and friends camping in Townsend, TN, at Big Meadow Campground. Judy was an avid Tennessee sports fan, especially Lady Vols basketball.

Preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Joe Herbert; parents, Casper and Mary Jean Nevins Sewell; brothers-in-law, Jon Herbert and Jim Herbert; sisters: Jo Marie Kaiser and husband Larry, Betsy Hanks, and Joyce Swain.

Survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Dee Dee Herbert; her cherished granddaughters, Abbie Herbert, who graduated from ETSU as a Registered Nurse, practicing now at Children's Hospital, and Emily Herbert,



Herbert

who graduated from UT, and is in pursuit of her Masters of Occupational Therapy; brother-in-law, Jack Herbert, Ronnie Swain, James Hanks; sisters: Rachel Palmer (E.O.), Rita Duncan (Ray), and Dale McKenzie (Jerry) along with many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Judy's niece, Jennifer Reynolds, who lovingly cared for her. The family is also grateful to Jennifer Gillman with Aging Adult Assistance for the wonderful, loving care and friendship for the past several months.

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 4th, at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. A Celebration of her Life will follow at 3 p.m. with Mr. Jason Ridenour officiating. Family and friends will gather at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 5th, in the Concord Masonic Cemetery for graveside services and interment. Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut Street, Lenoir City, is in charge of arrangements. clickfuneralhome.com

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