

# YHC Open House... continued from page 1A

The new recreation center also contains multiple classrooms, a fitness area, fitness studios, and a 37-foot climbing wall placed in the recreation center for the use of students.

"We are very excited about opening this to our students," said President Cox.

President Cox would go on to thank members of the Young Harris City Council who have been very helpful in the process of constructing the new recreation center.

Members of the community also will have the opportunity to obtain gym memberships to the

recreation center at YHC in the near future.

The center plans to operate Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to noon, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Sunday from noon until 11 p.m. For more details on recreation center operations, call (706) 379-7742.

## Class of 1955 reunion

Class of 1955 this is your last reminder of our "get together" at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 1 p.m. on August 8. (Other classes are invited if you would like to join us.) You have already been warned that if you are not there you will be talked about. Therefore you better come by for a few minutes even if you can't stay very long. It will be a good chance to get caught up on how many grandkids (great grands) we have. And of course how brilliant and perfect they are. If you don't have grands bet you can find something else to compare.

Hope to see you there. And remember, no meal just finger food. T(Aug4,H1)SH



YHC President Cathy Cox offers a tour of the college's new multi-million dollar recreation center to locals last week. The center will host athletic events as well as provide gym memberships to the general public. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Woolly Adelgid a severe threat to Eastern hemlock trees

The woolly adelgid is a very small non-native insect which threatens to destroy all Eastern Hemlock trees. The adelgid, accidentally introduced from Asia, is the greatest threat to our forests since the American Chestnut blight and in some ways is even more destructive. With the American Chestnuts, oaks and hickories have taken over the gap in the forest. But there is not a shade-tolerant evergreen to take over the gap of the hemlock.

Can you protect your hemlocks? Maybe.

Help your hemlocks to be healthy. Water your hemlocks in times of drought. Check them for infestation; late fall to early summer when adelgids are most visible is best. Remove dead branches. If you go in an infested area, wash clothes and your vehicle to avoid spread. Fertilizer can help uninfested trees but should not be applied to infested trees as it promotes the adelgid. Remove heavily infested trees to prevent spread to other trees. If you replace the trees, consider Western or Japanese hemlock since these species seem to be resistant. Rain and wind can remove the adelgid and when they are removed, they die; use a strong hose to remove the adelgids during April through June.

Untreated infested hemlocks will die in 3-6 years and treatment needs to be continued until the threat is abated. Two types of treatment are available to homeowners--



Hemlock infested with the woolly adelgid

spray or soil injection.

The spray is better for the environment. Insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray kills the adelgids by suffocation. Neither protects uninfested trees. The entire tree must be saturated. Treatment is recommended twice a year, when no rain is predicted for 24 hours. Apply the spray in late March through April when adelgids have hatched from their eggs, or in late August to October before the nymphs produce their woolly covering.

Soil injection with an insecticide is most effective if applied September to November and needs to be repeated every two years. It should not be used near streams as the insecticide can kill aquatic species. Ask your county agent to borrow a tool to inject the soil.

Carefully follow directions for the spray or the injection as they are poisons.

In Asia there is a beetle that is a natural predator to counteract the adelgid. The beetles are being bred in the USA at a cost of \$1 a piece and are not yet available to home owners. This may be the best longer term solution. Young Harris College has a lab that breeds the predator beetles.

Web sites for more information are: [www.saveourhemlocks.org/controls/my\\_prop.shtml](http://www.saveourhemlocks.org/controls/my_prop.shtml) or [www.uri.edu/ce/factsheets/sheets/hemadelgid.html](http://www.uri.edu/ce/factsheets/sheets/hemadelgid.html)

See your local library to use a computer at no charge!

By Johanne Kittle,  
Plant Rescue Team

NT(Aug4,H1)SH



Great Smoky Mountains National Park sprays adelgids.

## Parkinson's Disease Support Group

The Blairsville Parkinson's Disease Support Group meets at Cadence Bank on the second Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, contact Paula Wilde at 706-745-6594 or Peter and Helen Schultz at 706-745-9171.

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## GWRRA meetings

Chapter J of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) meets on the fourth Saturday of each month (excluding December) at Daniels Steakhouse, Hiawassee, GA. Fellowship and food at 11 AM with the meeting commencing at noon. We welcome riders of all brands of motorcycles and welcome participants of other GWRRA chapters. For further information, please contact Chapter Director Peg Jones 678-464-7340. NT(Aug4-G1)gg