



RETURNING TO THE PGA
 BUTLER COUNTRY CLUB PRO
 ROB MCCLELLAN ADVANCES
 Page 9

FAIR IS HERE
 156th Big Butler Fair
 returns Friday Page 29



Butler Eagle

Butler County's Great Daily Newspaper

SINGLE COPY 50¢

Bill endangers forests

A congressman from California wants to put some of Pennsylvania's wildest forests at greater risk. U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy's hostile bill targets millions of roadless acres of American wildlands, including some here in Pennsylvania.

The bill, House Resolution 1581 (the "Wilderness and Roadless Areas Release Act"), would strip protections from 25,000 pristine acres in the Allegheny National Forest.

As someone who has spent countless hours hiking through the Allegheny's backcountry, I find this bill to be an insult to the region. Not only does the Allegheny provide anglers with a great place to fish, it also provides families with a great atmosphere for canoeing and outdoor recreation. The region's older oak, black cherry, hemlock and white pine forests provide hunters with ideal habitat to hunt for deer and other game.

Four Allegheny forest tracts that qualify for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act of 1964 — Allegheny Front, Clari-

on River, Cornplanter and Tracy Ridge — could be stripped of protections.

Those not concerned with protecting Pennsylvania's wildest places might be interested in protecting their bottom line. In 2006 alone, more than 4 million Pennsylvanians went hunting, fishing or wildlife-watching, which generated more than \$4 billion for the state's economy.

This attack on our wildlands also is an assault on Pennsylvania's conservation legacy. The late Republican U.S. Rep. John P. Saylor of Johnstown was an original sponsor of the Wilderness Act that has conserved land throughout the country.

Readers should urge their representatives in Congress not to strip the Allegheny's wildest places of protections, so future generations can enjoy some of the commonwealth's most beautiful outdoor recreation areas.

Those seeking more information should log on to www.pawild.org.

**Kirk Johnson, Warren
 Executive director, Friends
 of Allegheny Wilderness**