

# THE FOREST REPUBLICAN

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## HILES NEWS

Sunday night, and just got the email that Crandon schools are closed for Monday because of the winter weather warning and the possibility of what we could get. I think right now they're saying a possibility of more than 12 inches with heavy winds to go along with that snow. Gas for the generator, wood for the furnace, and stocked up pantries have been on everyone's minds. This weekend, the temperatures were in the 30's, and Sunday felt like the calm before the storm. It will be interesting to see how much we end up getting. I know that the kids are happy to have another day off, especially my high schoolers as they ended last week with finals.

Coming quickly is the Fisheree sponsored by the Hiles Fire Department. It's one of their major fundraisers of the year, and always a good time had by all. There's something for everyone; food, beer, raffles, and above all, a lot of fun.

Last week, I wrote about the room tax and how the new signs in the Town of Hiles were paid for. It's neat to see the changes that are occurring, some big and some smaller. One of the upcoming things that The Hiles Planning Commission is working on, along with the Town Board, Forest County Zoning and many others, is hopefully dredging Pine Lake. Pine Lake has 1673 acres, and unfortunately is home to several invasive creatures. I thought it was interesting that per the DNR, the bottom of the lake is made up of the following: 40% sand, 15% gravel, 10% rock, and 35% muck. I'm not sure that will surprise anyone. And with the deepest point of the lake being only 15 feet, that's not the best to keep a lake healthy. Pine Lake is one of the two lakes in Forest County that is in trouble, due to things like invasive species and the muck/soot that's filling the lake. Currently, the pre-application for dredging has been submitted to the DNR. Hopefully it and the actual application for dredging will be approved and dredging can begin, possibly in 2019. Local residents, summer home owners and vacationers alike can only benefit from the effects of the dredging, as will the area businesses.

One other thing that's going to have an influence on everyone in Forest County, is what happens with the Forest County Courthouse. Several plans are currently being discussed, with one of them possibly costing more than 25 million. More information can be found on the Forest County website, or by talking to your county supervisor.

Have a great week all! Stay warm and safe.

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