"Birthplace of Will Rogers"

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First of all, I would like to say Thank You. Thank you to the hardworking members of our community who have continued to persevere in ways we never thought we would have to. Thank you to the educators and school administrators who have made adjustments in response to this pandemic situation which has caused a break in our normal routines. Thank you to the first responders who are working every day like normal because crime and emergency situations still happen even when our daily lives are interrupted. Thank you to parents and guardians who have changed schedules and plans in order to stay home with their children who may be frightened by this ever-changing situation. And a great big thank you to everyone who is spending countless hours doing the difficult job of sanitizing our town, from the school buildings to each of our local businesses it is an almost constant battle to fight this invisible yet difficult opponent COVID-19.

As I have listened to our political leaders speak about this situation, they are all talking about the protection of the American people. I am glad that this is their focus, but we also have to make sure that this focus is shared by local communities all the way down to our individual families. It is for this reason that today I will issue a proclamation declaring the town of Oologah be in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We will remain as such until we receive information from the federal or state leaders that this situation is no longer a threat to the American people.

I believe this community is already pulling closer than it has been in many years and I pray that this continues. Let us work to turn what could definitely be considered a negative situation into something positive! If it isn't completely necessary to go out into public, do your best not to. If you have an abundance, share with someone in need. Find a way to ease someone's burden if you can, because that is the way we will keep "unnecessary contact" from happening.

As we move forward, the Town Board of Oologah will pass on local information as we have it. In the meantime, don't waste an opportunity to pull closer as a family and find a way to keep everyone's mind on something positive!

George Peters

Proud Citizen and Mayor of Oologah