

# Letters of support helped to fast-track the application

## CREEK continued from front page

Lewis, who was Raya’s manager at the Cultural Resources Department, has worked on renaming projects before. Due to that, the Oregon Geographical Names Board asked him to submit a proposal to change the creek’s name.

“I looked at the history of the Nestuccas and found that Levi Bobb and some of his family resettled in Grand Ronde and married into the Tribe,” Lewis said. “I felt it was fitting to honor them with a place name in their original location.”

In his application, Lewis wrote that between 1856 to the 1880s, the Nestuccas visited Grand Ronde to shop for supplies and services. In 1875, they were moved to the Salmon River Encampment, about two hours away from Grand Ronde by horseback. Many then married Natives on the Grand Ronde Reservation and moved there.

“The Nestucca and Tillamook Indians are a part of Grand Ronde Tribal history and many are descendants of Levi Bobb,” the application stated. “People like Wilson Bobb and Steve Bobb Sr. have served as Tribal leaders for many years, helped with the Restoration of the Tribe and have taken leadership roles on the Tribal Council.”

Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. wrote a letter in support of the renaming from the Bobb family.

“Since time immemorial, the Bobb family ancestors have lived, hunted, fished and gathered along the banks and tributaries of the Nestucca River. ... It is an honor for a creek to be named after one of our ancestors, Nestucca Bobb, a leader among the Nestucca Band of Tillamook. Naming this creek after the Indigenous people honors our



Map created by Samuel Briggs III

ancestors.”

When contacted by *Smoke Signals*, Steve Bobb Sr. added that from the time Lewis brought the proposed change to him it has been an honor. Nestucca Bobb is the cousin of his great-grandfather.

“I have felt it is an honor not only for the decision to remove the offensive longtime name, but to suggest renaming it after my distant ancestor and leader in this coastal Tribe, for me and my entire Bobb family, this is a humbling and wonderful honor.”

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy also included a letter with the application.

“Naming a place after this family will recognize and help others to learn about the Indigenous people

of Tillamook County,” she said.

Lewis noted that the letters of support helped to fast-track the application.

“That helped it fly through the process,” he said. “Then, it was sent to the national board for approval.”

A Google search for Nestucca Bobb Creek shows it has been renamed and also includes a few sentences about the history behind the change.

Recently Lewis, Raya and Raya’s sister, Tribal Elder Ann Lewis, traveled to the newly named creek in Tillamook County, which is about 15 miles from Grand Ronde. There, they were met by Tillamook County Commissioner Mary Faith Bell.

“I was honored to meet them and

to learn a little about their family and the history of the area, and to get a sense of what the creek name means to them,” Bell said.

One unsettling aspect is the road next to the creek is still named Squaw Creek Road. The next step will be renaming it Nestucca Bobb Creek Road.

“Squaw Creek Road is not a Tillamook County road,” Bell said. “We will research who the road belongs to and partner with David Lewis and the Bobb family to petition for the road name change. Hopefully, at this time next year we will meet again to celebrate Nestucca Bobb Creek Road, adjacent Nestucca Bobb Creek, in south Tillamook County.” ■

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This is your opportunity to help guide federal funding that will impact future generations to come. Why your data matters? The 2020 Census is the count for all American Indians and Alaska Natives, no matter your age or where you live. Census results affect our community every day! It improves funding for many vital programs offered by CTGR. Your response will support rural areas, restore wildlife, build roads, housing, provide education, fund items like prevention services, health care and school lunches to name a few.

Have you completed the Census as **Head of Household** or were you **included** in a household Census? If the answer is yes, the next step is to respond NOW.

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**Deadline to Respond is September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. How to Respond:**

- By phone 503-879-2165
- By email [Itookthecensus@grandronde.org](mailto:Itookthecensus@grandronde.org)

**Provide your full name, roll # and contact information.** Let us know if you would like to participate in the Raffle. All information provided is confidential and never shared.

**If you have not completed your Census - There is still time!**  
 You can complete it here: <https://my2020census.gov/>  
 Call and let us know once your Census is done and you will be entered into the raffle.

Drawing will be held September 8th, 2020.  
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 Please contact Anita Espino (CTSI Tribal Member, Niece to Aggie Pilgrim)  
 Call or text at (503) 983-5783, or e-mail [Anita.L.Espino@doc.state.or.us](mailto:Anita.L.Espino@doc.state.or.us)

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