

THE BODIE TIMES

PROTECTING BODIE'S FUTURE BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

THE NEWS OF BODIE, MONO LAKE & GROVER HOT SPRINGS
BodieFoundation.org

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Summer Start For A 10-Year Stabilization Plan

By Dydia DeLyser
Bodie Foundation
Board President

Stabilization efforts to preserve Bodie's 178 buildings in a state of arrested decay have been ongoing since the town of Bodie became Bodie State Historic Park in 1962.

However, the funding which controls the pace and extent of those efforts has always been variable. In the 1990s, a major grant from California's "Environmental License Plate Fund" (if you had a personalized license plate at that time, you contributed!) launched a fifteen-year effort that touched nearly every building in the Bodie townsite.

But some thirty years later, in Bodie's harsh climate, many of the shingled roofs already need new shingles—Bodie's residences are no different from our own homes where we don't expect a roof to last indefinitely. Meanwhile, as Bodie's buildings, many of them built in the 1870s, age into the middle of their second centuries, the kinds of work needed to keep them standing (and withstanding Bodie's 100-mph winds, blazing sun, and heavy snows) continue to escalate. Here too, we can all relate: if humans in mid-life begin to need hip and knee replacement, we can only imagine what "work" would need to be done to keep us alive to 150!

In Bodie, many buildings today have urgent needs, and others have needs that are becoming urgent.

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A Long-Term Stabilization Plan launching this summer will aid in planning stabilization for Bodie's buildings
Photo by Eric Draper

Executive Director's Report

Visitors Enjoy Early Bodie Snowmelt

By Jessica Schneider
Bodie Foundation
Executive Director

What a lovely Spring we are experiencing in Bodie this year! We at the Bodie Foundation are so excited to have an early snowmelt, providing earlier-than-usual access to Bodie, with fewer vehicles stuck in the tire-sucking mud of the Bodie bowl, and more visitors walking the streets of Bodie for their first time. The energy in Bodie is positive as we welcome new seasonal State Parks staff, and new Bodie Foundation staff as well.

Long-Term Stabilization Plan

We have been fundraising this past winter to help State Parks establish a priority list of building stabilization for the next ten years,

along with a price tag for said "Long-Term Stabilization Plan." I am happy to say that State Parks' head of Cultural Resources, Alexandra Neeb, has done spectacular work getting Bodie's Long Term Stabilization Plan (LTSP) underway. It was not an easy task: multiple times designated funding was pulled out from under us that she then had to find ways to replace.

Alex then had to get the contract with Garavaglia Architecture Firm approved at a time when budget cuts resulted in the state contracts department being disabled from approving any contracts. Without her agile and creative thinking, we would not be scheduling a walk-through with Garavaglia in June. But, here we

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Remembering Kent Adams

By Brad Sturdivant
Former Bodie Foundation
Executive Director

Admittedly, writing this article has caused me a great deal of thought and some heartache. Kent Adams was a long-time friend of over 30 years.

He was also a business partner and teacher when it came to things regarding establishing a non-profit organization. He was extremely organized and passionate about Bodie. Recently, I read through some of his notes used to set the Friends of Bodie on the right path.

Kent, born in 1947, passed away in Fall of 2024. He spent many years working with the YMCA in the Los Angeles area. When I met him, he had been involved in the non-profit industry for more than 30 years. There had been some talk among Bodie State Historic Park staff going back to the late 1980s about establishing a non-profit for Bodie. All earnings would go to the stabilization of structures, interpretive programs, maintenance, and staffing.

Enter Kent Adams. He was fired up and ready to begin. He had expertise in filing for the 501 (c) paperwork and articles of incorporation.

The first hurdle was convincing the staff at the Sierra District Headquarters. It was at this time we learned a non-profit existed within Sierra District. Who knew? It was called the Sierra State Parks Foundation. We gathered some support and were able to establish a "Bodie Advisory Committee." Kent took the lead and two people were asked to attend meetings and present the Bodie story and its needs. Soon, Friends of Bodie became a non-profit under the umbrella of Sierra



Kent Adams

State Parks Foundation.

By this time, Kent and family had moved to Spokane, WA. But he never lost or forgot his love of Bodie. Friends of Bodie (FOB) morphed into the Bodie Foundation with the full blessing of CA State Parks.

Kent visited Bodie a few years back. He still had ideas to help the Bodie Foundation, and met with Jessica Schneider, Executive Director for the Foundation.

There were many people over the years who helped bring FOB and Bodie Foundation into existence. They included members and donors, park staff, business managers, State Park Superintendents, Chief Rangers and many other non-profit organizations, especially in the Eastern Sierra.

My thanks to Kent for starting the ball rolling.

— ED Report

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are, ready for the initial meeting, right on time. Thank you for your dedication to Bodie, Alex!

The Bodie Foundation supplied \$50,000 of funding to match State Parks' funding of the first year of the LTSP. This project will likely take three years, so will require another \$100,000 from the Foundation to fund. We appreciate all who have donated to support this extremely important project.

Welcome to our new staff

You will be sure to see some new Bodie Foundation staff in and around Bodie this summer. We are happy to welcome Katie Eye, our new Photo Workshop Program Leader, as well as Neva Baker, our new Bodie Lead, to the Foundation family. They will be instrumental in carrying on the many programs we have that both fundraise for and support stabilization and the visitor experience in Bodie.

Katie comes to us with a wealth of photography knowledge and organizational skills necessary to conduct the Photo Workshop

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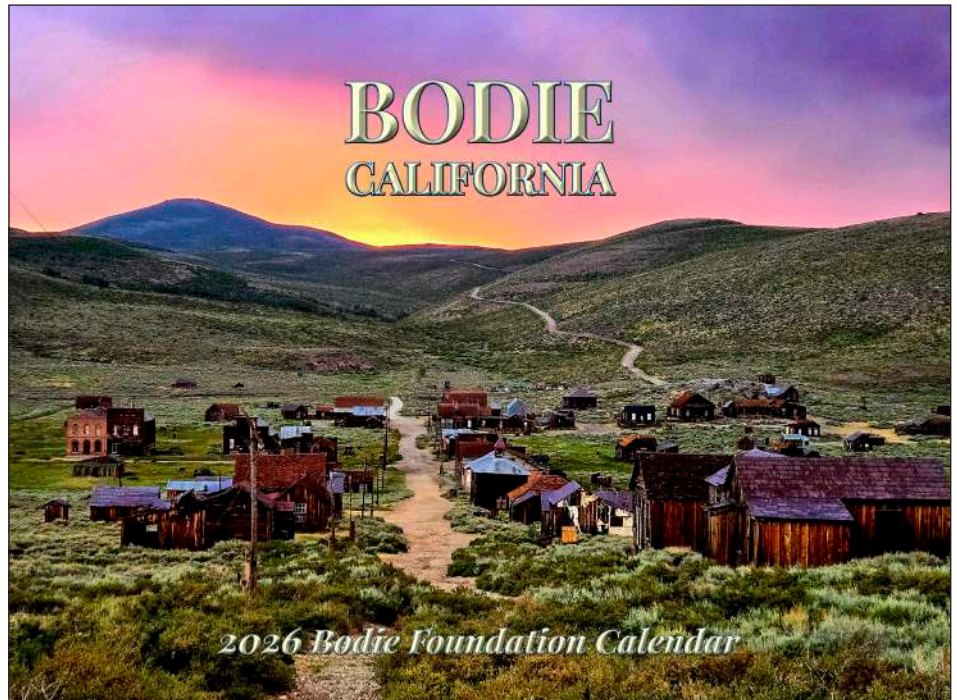
2026 Calendar On Sale, Winners Announced

The 2026 Bodie Calendar is now on sale for \$14.95 at the Bodie Foundation online store and the gift shop in Bodie.

A team of judges viewed the over 150 entries and narrowed it down to our winning photos. Thank you to everyone who entered and congratulations to the winners.

Our cover photo of a beautiful Bodie sunset was taken by Ashley McCausland.

Other photographers with winning images include Carol Silveira, Larry Angier, Beamie Young, Logan Vandergrift, Kathy Triolo, Kristy Andrews, Betty Sederquest, Tom Walker, Gary Schwartzwald, Jeff Dean, Susan Kjellsen, Eric Draper, Rae Lerche, and David Evans.



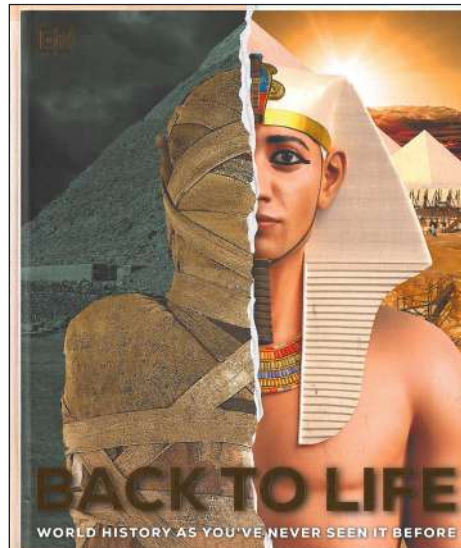
President's Column

Children's Book Elevates Bodie To "Titanic Status"

By **Dydia DeLyser**
Bodie Foundation
Board President

An exciting children's book elevates Bodie to a global stage, and features contributions by Foundation Board and staff members. *Back to Life: World History as You've Never Seen it Before* (New York: DK Publishing) was published in 2022 and is now available on the Bodie Foundation's web page and in our gift store in the Miners' Union Hall on Main Street in Bodie.

The goal of the book is to capture readers' attention by using cutting-edge technology and applying that to sites of the past, moving from historic images to the contemporary landscape, and then diving into re-creations of life in that place in the period of its significance. Each important global historic site



follows the same pattern, where every "layout" (or two-page spread) moves from the contemporary site, its location and its history; to using CGI illustration techniques to bring the site to life — as if readers were walking through the site as it once

was; and then to the subsequent layouts that zoom in on compelling details to bring people, places, and things to life, utilizing both real images and artist-created ones.

The book situates Bodie as a global-status historic site, representing it just as it does the pyramids, Machu Picchu, the Great Wall of China, and the Titanic. And of course, books for children can be more influential than books for adults because they shape the way the next generation will think. So when Senior Editor Sam Kennedy first contacted me about being a "Specialist Consultant" for their chapter on the ghost town of Bodie I said yes right away. I put together a team that included Bodieites Michael Piatt (a former Bodie staff

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— ED Report

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Program. Betty McCuniff will pass on this program she built over the last seven years after training Katie this season. Thank you for all your hard work for the Bodie Foundation, Betty! We could not have done it without all your dedication, hard work, relationship building and friendship over the years.

Neva Baker, a Bridgeport, CA local, brings mountains of retail experience to the Bodie Lead position. You can find Neva working in the Bodie Museum bookstore, selling memberships out of the J.S. Cain office, helping with a Stamp Mill tour or monitoring a Photo Workshop group.

Stop by and say “hello” to the new and returning staff at the Bodie Foundation! We look forward to seeing you in Bodie this summer.

A Fond Farewell

After serving for five years as Bodie Foundation Executive Director, and five years prior to that as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Foundation, I am officially stepping down from my position as of August 1, to pursue a career as a homeschool mother and wife. While leading this organization has had its share of challenges as we navigated Covid-19, wildfire seasons, State Parks staffing and budget shortages, it has also been deeply rewarding working with Bodieites and State Parks staff far and near whose passion for Bodie’s history and future is unmatched.

I did not make this decision lightly and am leaving the Foundation in the extraordinary hands of Board of Trustees Secretary, Shannon Boniface,



Night of the Phalarope

2025

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 6:30-9:00PM
MONO LAKE INDIAN & LEE VINING COMMUNITY CENTER

Wine tasting, wine and art auction, phalarope costume contest, research updates, and the world-famous phalarope song.

Come support Experience Ambientalía, the student exchange program with Argentina and meet founder Marina Castellino from Laguna Mar Chiquita.

a fundraiser for *Experience Ambientalía*

FREE event!
All are welcome
No RSVP needed




Sponsored by the Mono Lake Committee and Rotary International Projects

Mark your calendars for “Night of the Phalarope,” scheduled for June 14, 2025. The event is a fundraiser for the “Experience Ambientalía” an environmental education program that unites students across the hemispheres, coordinating joint projects and interaction throughout the school year, and sponsoring annual student exchange trips between Mono Lake and Laguna Mar Chiquita in Argentina. The goal is to foster environmental leadership in our young people.

who was not only raised in Bodie as the daughter of long-time Bodie maintenance worker Chuck Fell, but has a life-long career in non-profits. I will let her introduce herself in the Fall *Bodie Times Newsletter*, but for now, thank you for your years of support under my leadership. We’ve raised over \$650,000 over the past five years

to support Bodie, Grover and Mono, and although my children are my life’s work, the Foundation runs a close second in the past 10 years. I will not be far, as we plan to stay in Bridgeport and maintain active participation in Bodie’s future wherever needed. Cheers to you all, and may Bodie be around for our children’s children.

Enjoy A Soak At Historic Grover Hot Springs

By Adam Washam
Senior Park Aide
Grover Hot Springs SP

In 1854 rancher John Hawkins took up squatter's rights at Hot Springs Meadow. In 1878, Hawkins sold out to the Grover Family, who maintained a dairy there and ran the old Fiske Hotel in Markleeville. The hot springs became a resort for hotel customers.

The land twice changed hands in the 1800s, and its old growth pine and cedars were clear-cut. In 1959, it was purchased by the State for inclusion into the park system for about \$62,000.

The Washoe People, American settlers and today's campers have all sought the curative powers and therapeutic effects they believed existed in the hot springs water. The water's mineral content is 74.4 grams per gallon — mostly calcium carbonate, sulphate and chloride.

Unlike most hot springs, Grover's contains almost no sulphur. Leaving the ground at 148 degrees Fahrenheit, the water is cooled to 102 -104 degrees. The complex also includes a full-sized cold pool. The pools are closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. The pools are also closed Tuesdays.

Reservations for the pools can be made 48 hours to three weeks in advance by going to ReserveCalifornia.com and clicking on the "activities tab" at the top of the "Home Page." Four one-and-a-half-hour sessions are available Wednesdays through Mondays. Fees are \$10 per adult and \$5 for kids aged 16 and under.

A parking fee is charged to park at the pool of \$8 regular fee or \$7 for



File Photo

Bathers enjoy the hot springs at Grover. Reservations can be made at 48 hours to three weeks in advance by going to ReserveCalifornia.com and clicking on the "activities tab" at the top of the "Home Page."

seniors aged 62 and over. The park allows 40 people per session. Any unsold tickets are sold day-of, in person, at the campground entrance station starting at 9 a.m.

Since the Tamarack Fire, the meadow and surrounding hillsides are in a period of recovery. You can still find Incense Cedars, Jeffrey Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Sierra Junipers and Quaking Aspen as you walk along our several trails which leave the park and go into the higher elevations. These include a flat and easy stroll around the meadow on our newly-constructed, A.D.A. accessible boardwalk; to a moderate hike to a waterfall located on Forest Service land; to longer, more strenuous hikes uphill to Burnside Lake or Charity Valley.

Our Summer campground went on reservations in May. Reservations can be made 48 hours to six months in advance by going to

ReserveCalifornia.com or by calling 1-800- 444-7275. We accommodate tents, campers, vans, 24-ft. trailers (measured from the back bumper of the tow vehicle to the back bumper of the trailer) or 27-ft. motor homes.

In addition to the self-guided "Junior Ranger Adventure Guides" and the "Litter Getter Program," organized interpretation programs start the third week in June when visitation is high. Junior Ranger topics can include Mountain Lions, Bears, Bobcats, and Compass Orienteering.

Last year we also had a program on gold panning and mining. It all depends on what new employees pick as topics. Campfire programs cover subjects such as: Songs, The History of Alpine County, Grover Family History, and Mountain Lions or Bears.

To find out about other activities during the summer, please check with park rangers upon arrival.

— Stabilization Plan Moving Ahead

Continued from Page 1

But with 178 buildings, addressing only those in crisis on a building-by-building basis is like playing Whack-a-Mole.

So in Summer 2024 Bodie Foundation Executive Director Jessica Schneider and I convened a meeting of senior State Parks staff to launch a ten-year stabilization plan, and then 19-year Bodie stabilization veteran Eric Draper and I conducted a draft assessment of 130 buildings ranking them for that plan, doing a rapid assessment (based on our decades of shared knowledge of Bodie stabilization) that placed each building in one of five priority categories and sketching the kinds of work needed for every building we surveyed.

We shared the assessment with State Parks while they pursued funding for a more detailed engineering survey for the long-term plan, and in response you, our Bodie Foundation members, stepped up to raise \$50,000 to close a gap and fund that initial survey.

I'm pleased to announce now that State Parks has contracted with Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. and Linchpin Structural Engineering to collaborate with State Parks staff (including on-the-ground maintenance staff in Bodie) and the Foundation to launch this Long-Term Stabilization Plan (LTSP). Garavaglia Architecture, Inc., a San Francisco based firm, are Bodie veterans, having successfully collaborated with the Foundation and State Parks on the stabilization of the Railroad Office. And Linchpin Structural Engineering, based in



Park employees stabilize a Bodie building in 2019.

Photo by Chris Spiller

Truckee, are also Bodie veterans—they prepared the engineering plans and cost estimates for stabilizing Bodie's Methodist church and Fouke House. We now have an experienced team in place.

With the funding for the first, planning phase of the LTSP in place, initial planning-and-scoping meetings will begin this summer. This first phase will involve fieldwork in the Park to identify 29 representative buildings — representative both of building type and of stabilization need—for more detailed analysis (including four buildings that will be assessed in full architectural and engineering detail). Results of the first phase will inform development of treatment recommendations and standard-operating-procedures, as part of later phases. These recommendations can be used as the basis for a living Long-Term

Stabilization Plan that includes every one of Bodie's buildings, in order to ensure that appropriate and responsible stabilization work can be carried out that will lead Bodie into its second century.

We are very excited to partner with State Parks, Garavaglia, and Linchpin on this project and look forward to updating members as the project moves forward. Of course, this planning phase is only the beginning: the real excitement will be getting the boots on the ground to undertake a decade of major stabilization work. For us — for the Bodie Foundation's members — that means we will be needed to close more funding gaps when State Parks falls short.

This is something we Bodie Foundation members are good at: for a decade we have already funded nearly all the materials and nearly all of the contract labor (outside of regular State Parks staff) that has made stabilization in Bodie possible. We look forward to elevating our efforts to the next level as we seek to stabilize every building in Bodie over the next decade.

**Ghost Walks Tour
Tickets Are Still Available!**

Dates for 2025 Ghost Walks:

June 28

July 19

August 30

September 27

bodiefoundation.org/bodie-ghost-walks

— Children's Book

Continued from Page 3

member and author of *The Mines are Looking Well...: The History of The Bodie Mining District, Mono County, California*, and Bodie Foundation Tour Guide and Historian, Chris Spiller. Also on the team was my husband Paul Greenstein, an expert on photo analysis, historic artifacts and costumes.

Our work involved laying the groundwork for the CGI visualizer to render Bodie's Main Street in 3D in the period between 1877 and 1881. This included providing maps and images to guide them, provide input on the images as rendered by the CGI artist, and then offer guidance on the historical details (including sharing important sources) and input on both draft and final text. In other words, our job was to help people who had actually never been to Bodie, and began their work knowing nothing about its history, learn that history enough to make Bodie come alive visually, and to do so with accuracy—quite different tasks from the writing and talking about Bodie's history that we had each done in the past!

The result of these collaborative efforts is 10 pages in the final book that move from contemporary Bodie, to a re-creation of a busy day on Main Street circa 1880, to details of interiors like the Boone Store, and things on sale there of interest to children, such as the marbles that kids often played with in the 1880s. Modern-day maintenance workers (myself included) have found marbles while working underneath Bodie's buildings.

FRIENDS OF BODIE FEST



Saturday, July 26, 2025
Bodie State Historic Park
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



"Pastimes And Fast Times In Bodie"

Life wasn't all work. Enjoy tales of games, sports, musical events and other leisure activities from Bodie's past. Bring the family for a fun day featuring kids' activities, stamp mill tours, vendors, food, and live music and dancing. Witness history come alive on the streets of Bodie as horses and wagons travel through town. We invite you to wear your historic outfits and enjoy the day with us.



*For more information, contact Bodie Foundation,
info@bodiefoundation.org.*



"Back to Life" is geared for children aged nine and above. We field-tested the book with Bodie Foundation Executive Director Jessica Schneider's two boys when they were just three and four, and it quickly became their favorite book!

Do you have children in your life? Consider making this their introduction to Bodie's vibrant history! You can purchase it directly from bodiefoundation.org/store or when you visit Bodie in our gift store in the Miners' Union Hall.

**Shop Online At
Bodie Foundation**

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it to our store in
Bodie, shop from
home to buy books,
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Bodie Foundation

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- \$100 - W. S. Bodey
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visitmonolake.org

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Photo by Phil Lindsay