

From the President: Dear Members, We are in full parade and picnic season. Join us for pizza on June 6 and walk it off with us in the Grand Parade that evening, or just cheer our pioneer families on! We are sharing some fun reviews about the local historian coming to speak at our picnic this July. Serving as your President has been my honor, and I am excited to help SDOP in the role of secretary for the next year. Hope to see you along the trail real soon!

-Joy'e Willman, SDOP President 2025-2026



Destination: Portland, Oregon

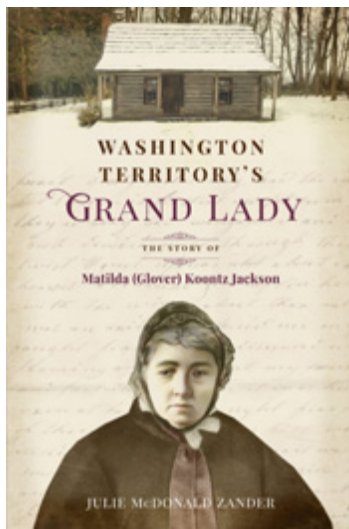
Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Gathering and Board Meet & Greet

Doors open at 11:30 Meeting at High Noon at [Stark St. Pizza Co.](#) 9234 SE Stark St, Portland, OR 97216

Rest up after pizza and games, then reconnect with your cousins and kin at the [Grand Floral & Starlight Parade](#) downtown. **If you plan to walk with us, gather at 6 p.m.** to sign your waiver.

Otherwise, take a spot in the crowd or online, and enjoy the festivities. In any event, walking pioneer proud and wearing your best bonnet; a smile is the most important thing to wear.



The Reluctant Pioneer aka Washington Territory's Grand Lady, Matilda Koontz cherishes her life as a wife and mother on a Missouri farm, but her hardworking husband wants to claim free farmland in the Pacific Northwest. When he suggests selling the farm to trek two thousand miles across the Oregon Trail, she balks.

But in the spring of 1847,

Matilda and Nicholas Koontz and their sons embark on a grueling journey westward. Fresh graves testify to dangers of disease, accidents, starvation, and a multitude of hazards threatening her family and her beloved's dream.

With new struggles at every turn, Matilda wonders how she can protect her sons on such a perilous journey. Will they reach the trail's end? Will the babe growing inside her womb survive?

When tragedy strikes, the question changes: How can she possibly continue?

This year's speaker at the Annual Pioneer Picnic is Julie McDonald Zander, an award-winning journalist, who earned a bachelor's degree in communications and political science from the University of Washington before working two decades as a newspaper reporter and editor. Through her personal history company, Chapters of Life (www.chaptersoflife.com),

she has published more than 90 individual, family, and community histories. As part of a three-book client project, she researched pioneers who crossed the Oregon Trail in 1847 as her client's relatives started the Aurora Colony. He also was related to the first native-born governor of Oregon.



Author and Historian, Julie MacDonald Zander, 2026 Annual Picnic Speaker

Between personal history projects, Julie spent five years researching the story of Matilda (Glover) Koontz Jackson before publishing the nonfiction book about her life, *Washington Territory's Grand Lady*, in 2019. It was a finalist for both the Western Writers of America Spur Award and the Will Rogers Medallion. Her oldest brother, Philip Glover, and his wife, Sarah (Koontz) Glover, followed her west in 1849 with their family and settled in Marion County near Salem.

Believing Matilda's story deserved a larger audience, Julie spent five years learning to write fiction before the release of her debut novel, *The Reluctant Pioneer*, in September 2024. The novel received a silver Will Rogers Medallion for inspirational fiction and American Bookfest's 2025 Best Book Award for religious fiction. It also was a finalist for Western Writers of America's Best Historical Novel Spur Award.

Her second novel, *Shattered Peace: A Century of Silence*, is a 2025 time-slip inspired by the heart-

breaking events of November 11, 1919, which became known as the Centralia Tragedy. Julie and her husband live in the Pacific Northwest, where they raised their two children.

Endorsements – Praise for Washington Territory’s Grand Lady:

“This book is a ‘must read.’ It tells the incredible and exciting story of one woman’s journey on foot across the plains to the promised land of Oregon Territory. In many ways, Matilda Koontz Jackson could be described as the ‘first lady’ of Washington State. She watched it all unroll in front of her eyes and she played a significant part in making our life what it is today. The book is well written and documented with many details that the other historians have missed. Frankly, I loved the book and recommend it to all.



Readers will not be disappointed!” ~ Ralph Munro, retired Washington Secretary of State, 1980-2000

Endorsements – Praise for The Reluctant Pioneer:

“I’ve been fascinated by the Oregon Trail pioneers since I was a girl, and their courage continues to intrigue and inspire me. Julie McDonald Zander’s debut novel

captures the tumultuous journey of these pioneers through the heartbreaking trials and unwavering hope of one woman who began the walk to Oregon Territory in 1847 with her husband and four boys. *The Reluctant Pioneer* invites readers to join Matilda Koontz on the trail and experience her joy and sorrow as she perseveres in her husband’s search for a new home. If you enjoy reading Jane Kirkpatrick’s fiction or other historical novels about women who overcome tremendous hardship for the sake of their family, you’ll love *The Reluctant Pioneer*! ~ Melanie Dobson, award-winning author of *Where the Trail Ends*, *Catching the Wind*, and more than two dozen other novels

“*The Reluctant Pioneer* is a heart-grabbing read about a courageous woman with incredible faith and fortitude. Based on a true story, walking alongside this woman on her journey from Missouri to the Oregon Territory grips your emotions. You find yourself cheering for her and grieving with her. I couldn’t put it down. It encouraged me to keep trusting in our powerful God. He alone brings us through our trials.”

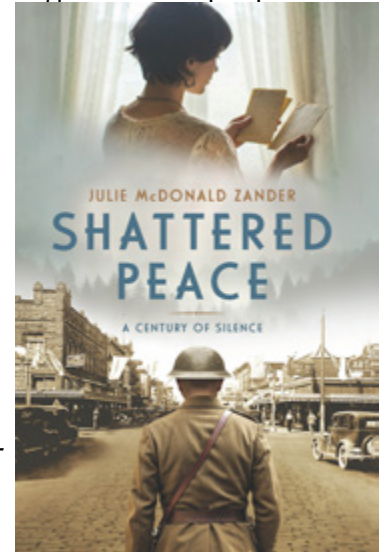
~ Marilyn Rhoads, Oregon Christian Writers past-president

Written by a local historian, *The Reluctant Pioneer* is filled with historical details, rich description, and raw emotion. Zander’s skillful narration brings to life the true story of pioneer Matilda Jackson and her remarkable journey on the Oregon Trail from Missouri to Lewis County, Washington. A compelling, inspiring, and beautifully crafted novel! Perfect for historical fiction lovers who enjoy reading about real people and Pacific Northwest history. Recommended for middle school to adult.

~ Robin Montgomery, former history teacher and freelance author

Endorsements – Shattered Peace: A Century of Silence

Julie Zander has penned an incredible dual-time story with nuance, empathy, and insight toward war veterans in both the past and the present. She explores the 1919 Centralia Tragedy, a violent conflict between Great War veterans and the Wobblies, and sheds light and eventually hope for victims of trauma and wounds of all kinds, no matter the century or circumstances. Her storytelling is timeless – and exactly what we need today. ~ Leslie Gould, award-winning author of *A Brighter Dawn*



Shattered Peace is a great read. It also achieves something remarkable: bringing to vivid life the real experiences – sweet and sad, violent and victorious, hard-charging and heartbreaking -- of the kinds of people who surely surrounded and had their lives forever changed by “the battle of Centralia,” when men were shot down on the street, armed militias roamed the town, and city fathers hung a man from a bridge in the last lynching ever to take place in Washington state. I’ve studied the history of this event for more than 20 years, but it’s never been as real to me as when I read this book. Her treatment of all sides is compassionate and understanding. Out of divisions that have lasted a century, she sees a path to peace, forgiveness and even love. Brian Mittge, author of *Framing Tragedy: The Chronicle Chronicle’s Changing View of Its 1919 Hometown ‘Massacre’* and co-author of *George Washington of Centralia*

History of Andrew and Sarah Jane Tigard compiled by Michelle Painter, a member of SDOP

Fortunately, there are many surviving details of Andrew Jackson Tigard and Sarah Jane Edwards Tigard - the builders of the Rogers-Tigard House.

Andrew’s father, Hugh Tigard, was a son of Revolutionary patriots and served under General Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812. He fought at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. By the 1820s the Tigards were established in the Ozark region of northwestern Arkansas. Hugh likely named his second son, Andrew Jackson Tigard, after the commander who also would become president in a few month’s time.

When crops failed in April 1852,

Andrew and Sarah left Arkansas for Oregon with Andrew’s brother (Wilson) and their mother. Sarah traveled the Oregon Trail with a 3 year-old and an infant. She had delivered her second child only two months earlier. The Tigard-Gilbreath wagon train followed the northern Oregon Trail west. The final leg of the journey took the dangerous Columbia River passage downstream from The Dalles into Sandy.

Sarah also brought to Oregon her younger brother, Joseph (19), and their father, Thomas. A 1985 family letter records that Sarah and Edward were niece & nephew of Robert Edwards, the owner of 77 acres of lower Manhattan. Once in Oregon, Joseph soon married the pioneer daughter of John Hall who he met while on the trail. Hall was the founder of Sherwood, Oregon.

Andrew – called simply “Jackson” in Wilson Tigard’s letters – was more than a pioneer. During the journey he helped arrange care for the orphaned Craig children after both parents died on the trail, assigning them to David Harer’s protection. Family descendants later remembered Andrew as a minister, a mail carrier, school-board president, and community leader in Yakima County despite reportedly being unable to read or write.

Wilson’s letters reveal that Andrew’s homestead in the 1850s was already increasing in value because of its location. “Jackson can get 10 dollars per acre for his any day ... it is nearer Portland.” He also wrote, “they are going to start a high school on it the institution will lie in 3 quarters of a mile from Jacksons house.”

The letters also show the family’s political convictions. Wilson attacked the pro-slavery “Salem



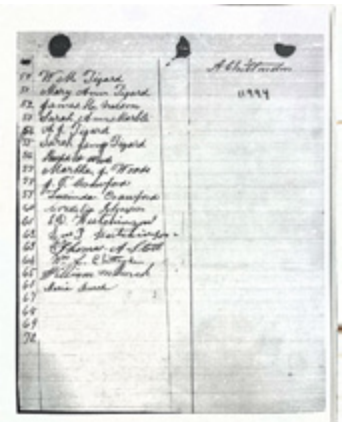
ANDREW JACKSON TIGARD FAMILY, 1870s. Shown here, from left to right, bottom row, are: Albert Tigard, Sarah Jane Edwards Tigard and Andrew Jackson Tigard. Back row: Nancy Tigard Hawkins, Sarah Jane Seward, Almada Tigard White and Mary Frances Wilson. Andrew was born in 1828 and died in 1890. Mary was married to Wilson, George White and

Samuel Fear. Sarah Jane was married to Seward and Bankard. Almada married Anson White. Albert married Caddie Owens. Nancy married Zack Hawkins. William Lafayette died in infancy. James Monroe died near Lake Chelan in Washington. He was born in 1854. (Photo courtesy of the White Heikel, Woodburn)

clique” and opposed the expansion of slavery into Oregon. Earlier records from Sarah’s Edwards family show only free persons living in the household recorded in the 1840 Arkansas census.

Sarah became known throughout the Yakima Valley for riding a little bay mare sidesaddle while carrying a brown medical bag. She answered calls at all hours to help sick neighbors across the frontier.

Her signature, penned while she was in her 20s, survives on an Oregon Territorial legislative petition alongside the votes of her brother Joseph,



husband Andrew, and Mary and Wilson Tigard – evidence that she participated in public civic affairs decades before women gained full voting rights.

A white chair preserved at the John Tigard



House Museum was reportedly built by Wilson from the wagon wheel used in the overland journey. It remains a tangible reminder of the family’s migration

In 2004, Bridlemile resident Virginia Danger conducted a phone interview with owner, Roger Hancock

“The Red House on the southeast corner of Hamilton and Shattuck is the home of Roger Hancock. In 1875 his great grandparents, Edward and Ester Rogers, bought 180 acres from Andrew Tigard, one of the two Tigard brothers who held the Donation land Claim. The other brother, Wilson Tigard, founded the town of Tigard.

Andrew Tigard built the red house in 1851. Roger was told by his grandmother that the original color of the house was light gray, next it was white, and the aluminum siding was put on in about 1970. The house was sold out of the family in 1939. Several owners followed. In 1980 the elderly couple who owned the house needed to move. The house was on the market about a week when Roger heard about it. Luckily the realtor had been Roger’s high school classmate and helped acquire it. The prospective buyer planned to tear the house down and put three houses on the land. There was a bidding war, but Roger got the house and has been there ever since.

The cellar in the house was at first a root cellar. In about 1940 it was enlarged. The crossbeams of the cellar are peeled logs. The Ponderosa Pine, a heritage tree, was planted in 1877. Roger’s great grandparents came to Oregon from England and settled on the farm. They had never seen the Pacific Ocean. One day they hitched up their horse and wagon and made a three-day camping trip to the coast. His great grandmother wanted a souvenir. There were no postcards in 1877 – but the tree is a mighty big souvenir now! Roger commented on two pear trees that are even older. He was told that Tigard brought these trees to Oregon and planted them right where they are now. He will show them to me when we meet.

Hess Road, now Hamilton Street, originally was a road to the Hess farm, which was about where Bridlemile School is. Shattuck Road was originally called Cooper Road. The Lees’ home and spring was south of Hamilton at about where 48th now is.



The house was gone by 1880. At one time, there were some Lee family graves in the scrub behind the house.

The picture, Roger says it was not taken in 1898. Joe Rogers’ store is in the picture, and it was not built until at least 1908. Joe Rogers built the store and ran it for a long time after he lost his right arm and was unable to farm.”

(Source: <https://www.bridlemilepdx.org/people-history-t-r-house>)

News Clippings for Additional Research

2025-05-22 HereIsOregon.com article: “[Portland’s oldest home, on land ripe for development, has a new owner. Here’s his plan so far](#)”

2024-08-20 Oregonian article: “[Portland’s oldest home on land ripe for development is for sale at 1-95 million](#)”

2024-04-08 PDX Monthly article: “[Property watch: Is this the oldest house in Portland](#)”

2014-12-11 Oregonian article: “[Tigard/Rogers house in SW Portland looking more and more like Portland’s oldest](#)”

PDF download from [Oregon Archaeological Services](#)

2024-10-02 (SWNI) page 1 article: “[Bridlemile Hopes to Preserve Link to the Pioneer Era](#)”

2024-10-02 Southwest Neighborhoods Inc (SWNI) page 3 article: “[Preserving Oregon’s History](#)”



Future of the House and Placemaking Efforts

Unfortunately, the property is still not in use and has been subject to local crime. On February 4, 2026, there was graffiti vandalism at the 1930 white house on the same property and a month later, the front window of the 1855 Tigard-Rogers house was broken. To change the trajectory of this neglected historical asset, Miss Pioneer Oregon Shanti del Rosario and Ariel Williamson, the founder [Values Based Mentorship](#), called a meeting of

stakeholders. On May 20, 2026, the stakeholder group consisted of nearby residents, related descendants, history buffs, youth leaders, elected leaders and community activists; all agreed the space holds historical significance and the common goal is to continue the value of the space.

Shanti explained how young people seek a safe space to get together. She gave the example of a “third space” outdoors that includes a simple memorial bench under some shade and explained why students might need somewhere to go to do homework, socialize, etc., besides school. [Professor David Terrell](#) with [SteamHub Academy](#) agreed that this would be good for young people’s mental health and offered that tutoring services could be partly funded with scholarships or subsidies.

Neighbors were curious if the little red house could be a museum and the white house a coffee shop, depending, of course, on the conditions of the buildings. No matter what happens inside the homes, the outside space is ripe for opportunity to partner with those interested in heritage orchards, pollinator colonies, indigenous studies, and pioneer projects. Many low-cost programs were suggested that could help people disconnect from tech and connect with community.

SDOP is proud that a Miss Pioneer Oregon winner is leading the charge to preserve and enhance this asset for us and future generations.



Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers
Board Meeting
Saturday, April 18, 2026
Camp 18, Seaside, Oregon
Minutes (Draft)

Members present: Joy'e Willman, Joyce del Rosario, Dave Thompson, Debbie Pedersen, Priscilla Belin, Chris Meinicke, Zoe Godsey, Shanti del Rosario.
Friends and Guests: Terry Thompson, Mark Pedersen, Leif Lidin-Lamon, Eric. Godsey.
Directors Absent: Janet Wilson, Mel Fuller, Sherry Fuller, Shauna Noon, Dina Saunders.

In person meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m.
Quorum was met.

Officer Reports

President's Report: President Joy'e Willman reiterated the code of conduct at the beginning of the meeting and reminded the directors that personal attacks against other people will not be tolerated.

Director/Committee Reports

Nominating: President-elect, Joyce del Rosario reported newly elected directors and officers installation will occur at the June board meeting. Expanded board packets and updated rosters will be handed out at the July picnic.

SDOP is seeking one or more persons to assist the Treasurer. Shauna Noon will remain as Treasurer and the Registered Agent for the corporation. Members with or without financial backgrounds are encouraged to consider volunteering as an Assistant Treasurer. Shauna Noon is excited to train volunteer(s). Any persons interested in learning an Assistant Treasurer role, please email president@oregonsdop.org

Finance: SDOP is reviewing options for an accounting system that will streamline donation receipts and thank-you notes. The current executive team (President Joy'e, Secretary Joyce, and Treasurer Shauna) reiterated over the last several meetings that the organization would benefit from a more regular schedule of financial review.

Events: Awards: President Joy'e Willman received amended language for the Awards contest from prior committee members. Those interested in serving on the awards committee please email president@oregonsdop.org.

Events: Parade: President Joy'e Willman encourages members who would like to walk in the parade to reach out to president@oregonsdop.org. The Grand Floral Starlight Parade was moved to evening. End of the Oregon Trail Museum has invited SDOP members to walk with our Banner. Joy'e suggested we hold the Signs with our Pioneer Names and pass out small scrolls to the crowd. Joyce is looking for options to help those with mobility issues.

Governance: Bylaws committee chair, Joy'e Willman, reported that the bylaws team will hold Zoom meetings that are open to all members. Please email president@oregonsdop.org to be invited to the meetings. Any suggestions or comments for the bylaws, please send to president@oregonsdop.org. The governance committee will identify revisions that have been prepared for membership feedback and are in need of legal review.

Governance committee members support creation of an ad-hoc committees for: 1) board volunteers who cycle out of a voting position (past-presidents and past officers) and 2) Life Members (not prior directors). These separate ad-hoc committees may be invited to participate in specified outreach efforts and shall report to the President.

Technology: SDOP is looking for volunteers to assist with the technology tasks and will consider a stipend for students willing to serve as interns. One of the first priorities is to optimize the Online Application and repair some resource access issues. Additional work to connect social media accounts has been identified and volunteers who can create original content for SDOP (not reposting of other content) are asked to send items and photos to editor@oregonsdop.org.

Public Relations and Membership:

Merchandise/Trading Post: Reggie Burke reported that SDOP earned \$27 from the Trading Post in the prior quarter. Reggie presented a new design from the Trading Post using a UV DTF Direct to Film, a local made decal to be sold for \$6.

Newsletter: March News delivery methods are on the Publications page off the website, via email campaign and in print. For the first time, the SDOP News was delivered using a mass-email program instead of a personal email. The print issue was delayed due to some technical issues arising from the recent transfer of duties. Despite the production delay, SDOP Presi-

dent Joy'e Willman reported there has been improved accuracy since the transfer of editorial duties back to a sitting board director. Those with ideas for content or photos to share should send them to editor@oregonsdop.org.

Membership: Registrar's Report: Debbie Pedersen reported that the recent winners of Miss Pioneer Oregon (Shanti del Rosario and Addison Stabenow) have been awarded their lifetime membership. Debbie also requested that the membership sign-up language be made more clear. Joyce has made preliminary changes in the newsletter and will share those edits with the volunteers producing the application.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Events: Pioneer Picnic: Chris Meinicke mentioned she would not be contacting the pavilion for reservation this year, but Ranger David Fagan is the most likely point of contact for coordinating. President-elect Joyce del Rosario announced the speaker is an Oregon pioneer descendant, Julie McDonald Zander, author of *The Reluctant Pioneer*.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.
Prepared by Joyce del Rosario, Secretary



Semiquincentennial Anniversary of founding of United States of America

The 4th of July 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission was established by Congress (P.L. 114-196) to inspire Americans to participate in the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

The America 250 Oregon Commission was created through [Senate Bill 1531](#), which was signed into law by Governor Tina Kotek on March 27, 2024. Chaired by the [Oregon Historical Society's](#) executive director, Kerry Tymchuk, the commission will organize Oregon's official observance of the [United States Semiquincentennial](#).

More about the Commission in prior edition of [SDOP News](#) and current calendar of events can be found on <https://www.oregon250.org/calendar/>

INCOMING 2026-2027 LEADERSHIP

- President - Joyce del Rosario
president@oregonsdop.org
- President Elect - Dina Saunders-Miller
presidenelect@oregonsdop.org
- Secretary - Joy'e Willman
secretary@oregonsdop.org
- Treasurer - Shauna Noon
treasurer@oregonsdop.org

EX-OFFICIO VOTING DIRECTORS

- Immediate Past President - Joy'e Wilman
president@oregonsdop.org
- Registrar - Debbie Pedersen
registrar@oregonsdop.org

For an expanded list of directors at-large and key volunteers, please visit our website: oregonsdop.org
News editor@oregonsdop.org
Membership members@oregonsdop.org
Merchandise merch@oregonsdop.org
Research Requests research@oregonsdop.org
Tech and Other Inquiries webmaster@oregonsdop.org
Volunteer Support volunteer@oregonsdop.org

SDOP Dues

<https://oregonsdop.org/membershipjoin/>

One-Time Membership Application Fee for new members:

Junior Son or Daughter (age 0-18)	\$12*
Adult Son or Daughter (all ages)	\$30*
Friend (all ages)	\$30

One-Time Fee for Life Memberships

Age 0-60	\$300
Age 60+	\$150

Annual Dues (Year 2 and beyond)

Junior Son or Daughter (age 0-18)	\$8
Adult Son or Daughter (age 18-60)	\$20
Senior Son or Daughter (age 60+)	\$15
Friend (all ages)	\$20

*(Note: Year 1 dues included with membership application fee, which also includes newsletter for one year)

Optional Annual Adjustments

Printed Newsletter	+\$10
Veteran or Disability Discount	-\$5

*Includes certificate and pin

SDOP Events
oregonsdop.org/events

Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers
SUSTAINABILITY

Thank you for financially supporting our efforts to promote an interest in Oregon history with diverse audiences. Donations made through the website are processed through a secure provider by using your credit or debit card, and no PayPal account is needed. We appreciate each and every donation and will be diligent handling all. Checks or Money Orders can be made out to **SDOP or Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers**. The mailing address is **SDOP, P.O. Box 6685, Portland, OR 97228-6685**. Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers operates as a 501(c)(3) entity. Donations are tax-deductible. **SDOP EIN# is 23-7455151**

Oregon 250 Commemorative Scarves 40”x 40”.
Made of New China Silk includes list of locations of interest along the Oregon Trail \$25 (plus \$2 shipping) Designed by Nina Akin using AI prompts from our SDOP Board and Oregon 250 Committee members, inspired by the illumination of western sun. In person orders may be placed at any SDOP event or you can pay \$27 online using Paypal, just let our Treasurer know it is for the scarf in the memo line. Supplies are limited. Additional merchandise and branded items are available at <https://sdop-tradingpost.square.site/>

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 11:30 Doors Open
Noon Parade Round-Up and Board Meet & Greet
Stark Street Pizza Company
9234 SE Stark St, Portland, OR 97216
Pizza, Salad and Soda: \$15/person

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 6 p.m.
Grand Floral Rose & Starlight Parade Downtown
If you want to walk in the parade, show up at 6 p.m. and lineup with the other fine folk with the Museum at the End of the Oregon Trail.
Parade goes from 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 11:00 a.m.
Board & Volunteer Orientation
Champoeg State Heritage Area
St. Paul, OR 97137

Saturday, July 11, 2026, Noon
Potluck Picnic at the Pioneer Memorial Pavilion
Champoeg State Heritage Area
St. Paul, OR 97137



Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers
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Inside SDOP News Volume 55 Issue 6:

President's Letter, Destination: PDX	Page 1
Annual Pioneer Picnic Speaker Info	Page 1-2
Tigard-Rogers House	Pages 3-5
Meeting Minutes	Pages 6-7
Leadership Contact Info, Dues	Page 7
Events, Sustainability, Merch	Page 8



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