



# DIDYMUS INK

Art for Everyone

June 2026 Newsletter

Art in the Midst of Community

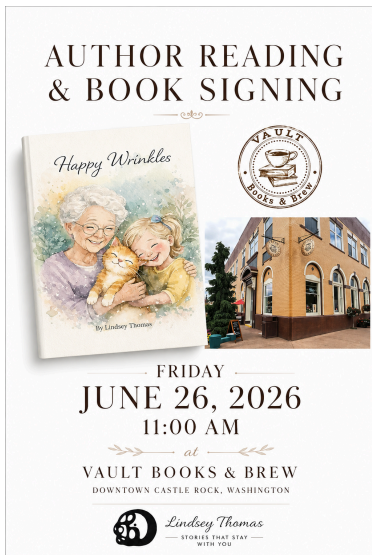


Together we create.  
Together we grow.



by **Rev. Lindsey Thomas** on June 1, 2026

## Fifty Years Young



This past week was filled with community, creativity, gardening and kitchen adventures, and one very special milestone: I celebrated turning **50 years young**.

Fifty sounds so much older when you're twenty.

At fifty, however, it feels a bit different. Life has a way of teaching us that wrinkles, scars, mistakes, and unexpected detours aren't things to hide from. They are evidence that we've lived, learned and grown.

That realization is part of what inspired my children's book, *Happy Wrinkles*, and it feels fitting that I am celebrating both my 50th birthday and an upcoming story time and book signing event for my book so close to each other.

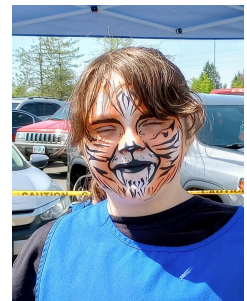
## Community Connections

One of the highlights of our week was spending time face painting at the Cowlitz County Farmers Market.

There is something special about gathering with neighbors, meeting new families, and watching children's faces light up when they see themselves transformed into living works of art.

The market continues to be one of my favorite places to connect with our community, and I am grateful for everyone who stopped by to visit.

Every event reminds me that art is more than paint on a canvas. Art creates conversations, friendships, memories, and opportunities to bring people together.



# Adventures in the Kitchen

This week also included plenty of baking.

We made a beautiful batch of baklava that turned out fantastic and reminded me how satisfying it is when a recipe comes together just right.

We also baked artisan bread, filling the house with one of my favorite scents in the world: fresh bread straight from the oven.



Not every kitchen experiment was quite so successful.

While making muffins, I learned that streusel topping should stay cold before baking. When the butter gets too warm, it melts and sinks directly into the center of the muffin.

The result?

A muffin with a hole in the middle.

Naturally, we renamed them.

They became **Duffins**: part donut, part muffin.

The funny thing is that while they weren't exactly what I intended, they were still delicious.

Life is often like that.

Sometimes things don't turn out the way we planned, but they still turn out good.





## Bees, Gardens, and Learning Experiences

We spent some time outside enjoying the garden and photographing bees this week.

If you've followed Didymus Ink for very long, you know how much I appreciate bees. They work tirelessly, help our gardens thrive, and remind me that even the smallest creatures can have an enormous impact.

Someone also learned that combs and long hair require caution.

Some lessons are simply more memorable than others.



## Salt Is Back in Business

Our chicken, Salt, has officially made it through her molt and is laying eggs again.

For those who keep chickens, you know how exciting that news can be. After looking rather scruffy for a while, she has bounced back beautifully and is once again contributing to breakfast.

We're thankful for healthy chickens, fresh eggs, & the simple joys of a homestead lifestyle.



## Family Celebrations

June is a month full of celebrations in our family.

Our son, **Micheal**, will celebrate his **28th birthday on June 22nd**. We are incredibly proud of the man he has become and grateful for the joy he brings to our family.

The very next day, on **June 23rd**, our daughter **Jovial** will celebrate her **14th birthday**. It is a blessing to watch her grow, learn, and discover who God created her to be.



The birthday celebrations continue on **June 27th**, when our daughter **Gabriella** turns **24 years old**. This year, she will be spending part of her special day doing what our family loves to do—painting faces alongside us at the Hot Rods for HEVIN event. There is something special about celebrating a birthday while bringing smiles to others.

As I reflect on my own 50th birthday, I find myself especially thankful for my family. Watching our children grow into the people they are becoming has been one of life's greatest gifts. The years pass quickly, but the memories we create together are treasures that only grow more valuable with time.

June will be busy, joyful, and full of reasons to celebrate, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

## Special Invitation

I am especially excited to share that I will be hosting a **Story Time Reading and Book Signing for Happy Wrinkles** on:

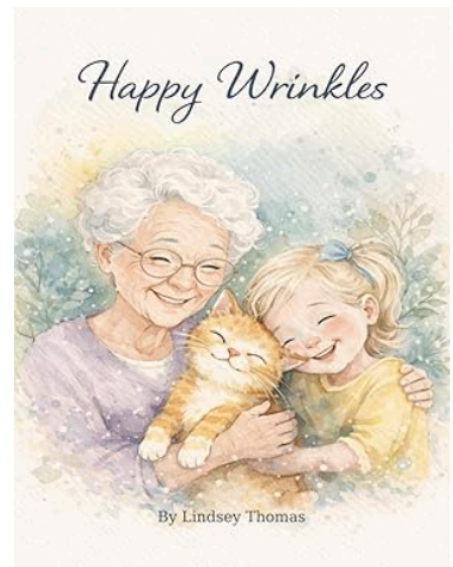
**Friday, June 26th**

**11:00 AM**

**The Vault Books and Brew**

We'll read the story together, enjoy a coloring activity, and celebrate the idea that every wrinkle tells a story worth sharing.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, child, or simply young at heart, I would love to see you there.



## New Creative Projects

Creativity continues to grow at Didymus Ink, and one of the projects I've been especially excited about is creating handmade coloring books.

What began as a simple idea has blossomed into a growing collection of coloring books designed to encourage creativity, relaxation, and joy for all ages.

One of our newest offerings is the humorous and relatable **"Wait... What Was I Doing?"** coloring book, inspired by those moments we all experience when life gets busy and our attention wanders.

These handmade books are available at many of our events and markets, alongside *Happy Wrinkles* and other creative projects from Didymus Ink.

Be sure to stop by our booth throughout the summer to see what's new. More books are already in the works, including additions to the Positive Through Negative™ collection.



## Upcoming Public Events

### Thunder Mountain Tattoo Expo

June 5-7

Face Painting and Temporary Body Art

**SHOW SCHEDULE**  
★ JUNE 5-7, 2026 ★  
COWLITZ COUNTY EVENT CENTER  
1900 7TH AVE, LONGVIEW, WA

★ FRIDAY • JUNE 5 ★	★ SATURDAY • JUNE 6 ★	★ SUNDAY • JUNE 7 ★
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>10:30 AM – 1:30 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Artist/Vendor Setup (be ready to go)</li></ul></li><li>2:00 PM – 11:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expo Open</li></ul></li><li>9:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Back Piece, Best Script, Shitty Tattoo</li></ul></li><li>10:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tattoo of the Day</li></ul></li></ul> <p>LIVE FRIDAY NIGHT: <b>SISTER MIDNIGHT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>11:00 AM – 11:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expo Open</li></ul></li><li>4:30 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bike Show Contests</li></ul></li><li>5:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pin-Up &amp; Bikini Contests</li></ul></li><li>5:30 PM – 10:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tattoo/Piercing Contests + Live Music<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Best Piercing</li><li>Most Piercings</li><li>Most Unusual Piercing</li><li>American Traditional</li><li>Neo Tradition</li><li>Anime</li><li>Large Color Over 6" x 6"</li><li>Small Color Under 6" x 6"</li><li>Large Tribal Over 6" x 6"</li><li>Small Tribal Under 6" x 6"</li></ul></li><li>Saturday Bike Show Contests:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Best in Show</li><li>People's Choice</li><li>Vintage</li><li>Custom</li><li>Custom Bike</li><li>Bagger/Touring</li><li>Built not Bought</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>10:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tattoo of the Day</li></ul></li></ul> <p>LIVE SATURDAY NIGHT: <b>LEADER 1</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>11:00 AM – 8:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expo Open</li></ul></li><li>3:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Miss Thunder Mtn</li></ul></li><li>3:30 PM – 5:00 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Live Music</li></ul></li><li>6:30 PM – 7:30 PM<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tattoo Contests</li><li>Realistic Tattoo</li><li>Portrait</li><li>Asian Themed</li><li>Large Black &amp; Grey Over 6x6</li><li>Small Black &amp; Grey Under 6x6</li><li>Tattoo of the Day</li><li>Best of Show</li></ul></li></ul>

CONTEST ENTRIES: \$10 EACH  
[THUNDERMNTATTOOEXPO.COM](http://THUNDERMNTATTOOEXPO.COM)  
TATTOOS • PIERCING • BIKE SHOW • PIN-UPS • VENDORS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

### Cowlitz Community Farmers Market

June 13

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



## Farm to Table Event

June 20

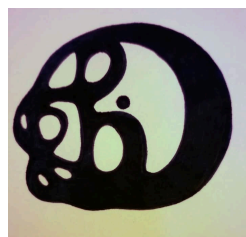
Three Rivers Crossing



## Cowlitz Community Farmers Market

June 20

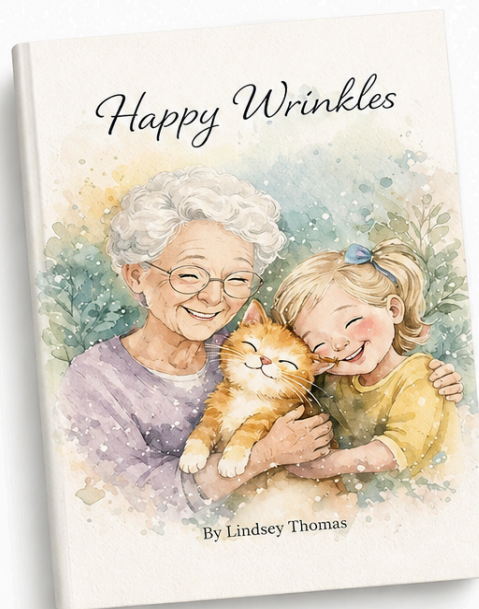
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



## Happy Wrinkles Story Time & Book Signing

June 26 11:00 AM The Vault Books and Brew

# AUTHOR READING & BOOK SIGNING



FRIDAY  
**JUNE 26, 2026**  
11:00 AM

at  
VAULT BOOKS & BREW  
DOWNTOWN CASTLE ROCK, WASHINGTON



*Lindsey Thomas*

— STORIES THAT STAY —  
WITH YOU

## Hot Rods for HEVIN

June 27 face painting and temporary tattoos



## Final Thoughts

Turning fifty has me reflecting on how much life can change in a year, a decade, or a lifetime.

Some weeks bring successes.

Some weeks bring mistakes.

Some weeks bring baklava.

Some weeks bring duffins.

Some weeks bring new eggs, beautiful bees in the garden, birthdays with family, and opportunities to share stories with friends.

No matter what the week brings, there is always something worth celebrating.

Thank you for following along on this journey with Didymus Ink. Thank you for supporting local art, local events, local authors, local makers, and the belief that creativity belongs to everyone.

Here's to another year of creating, learning, laughing, and finding beauty in the unexpected.

With gratitude,

**Rev. Lindsey Thomas**  
Founder, Didymus Ink

*Art for Everyone*

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