

## Legislative wrap-up

Compiled from Diana Stadden  
ARC Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

The issue on institution closure for individuals with developmental disabilities has become the biggest topic hot topic in Olympia. Even bigger than increased taxes. We hear rumors saying the closure of Yakima Valley Institution is in the budget, then it's not, then it is. The House did not include the closure of any state institution. In the Senate Senator Honeyford attempted to keep funding for Yakima. The committee did not agree and

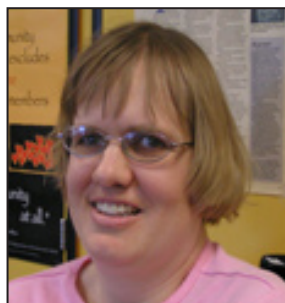
**See page 6 – Olympia**

## Hood Canal Bridge closure

The Hood Canal Bridge closes May 1 for up to six weeks. Jefferson County is providing ADA accessible transportation from the parking lot to the South Point Dock.

The parking lot, Shine Pit Park, will have regularly scheduled buses that are wheelchair accessible and disabled parking. The transit company will also provide Para-Transit during peak morning and afternoon hours.

Ursula Schletter  
Celebrating  
Allison ~ a great  
artist and friend  
See page 7



## Artist Allison Ormsby

By Tracy Wilson

Allison started coming to SNAP activities about three years ago. I don't remember actually meeting her for the first time. She seemed to slip quietly in and take her place among her (much noisier) peers.

Over those first few weeks, I think it must have slowly dawned on me that Allison was coming to our activities three times a week, and she was here to stay.

She was always one of our quietest members. Her constant, gentle presence is what I will miss most about her. She never sought anyone out, or had people she preferred to sit next to, or inserted herself into any conversation. She was not one to drape her arms around her friends during group photos.

Every picture I took of Allison shows a solitary creature - Allison painting, Allison working on clay, Allison eating a piece of pumpkin pie. And always smiling.

That's another thing I'll miss so much. Her voice was so quiet that it was often really hard to understand what she was saying, but she patiently repeated herself until somebody got it right.

She never said an unkind word to anyone, or about anyone.

Wherever you are, Allison, thank you for those moments of pure gold spent in your company. I think you know how much the people in your life loved you. I'm honored to have been one of them.

August 30, 1963 ~ March 25, 2009