

Jan. 1, 2012

To whom it may concern:

It was my pleasure to be Whitney Pipkin's editor during most of her time at the Skagit Valley Herald. She is simply one of the most impressive young journalists I have seen in my 40-plus years in the news business, including my time at both Seattle metro dailies.

Ms. Pipkin is a meticulous reporter and an exceedingly graceful writer. On top of that she is highly productive – a virtual workhorse.

Almost immediately on her arrival at the Herald she gave vigorous new life to our business coverage while also producing some of the most compelling and readable features we published.

Ms. Pipkin is undaunted by the "big story." When an explosion at one of our local oil refineries killed seven people she took the lead on the story and kept the Herald ahead of all competition, including the Seattle newspapers and broadcast outlets.

On a small staff such as ours a reporter with Ms. Pipkin's versatility is a blessing. We wish that we could hold on to her longer, but the Herald was so much better for the time she was able to give us.

Along with all that talent, Ms. Pipkin's impish sense of humor and warm collegiality make her a great addition to any newsroom.

Dick Clever
(Former) Managing Editor, news
Skagit Valley Herald
360-391-2709