

THE HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE
LIFE & STYLE

FIVE-STAR DAY: Cancer, you should not put up with office bully. **2C**

THE BIG 3-0: Actress Katherine Heigl of "Grey's Anatomy" has a birthday today. **2C**

SHOPPING? Look for what you need in the classified ads. **3C**



Alii McVann uses one of the organizers in her home office. McVann formerly worked on the "Ellen Degeneres Show" before starting her own business.

SONNY HEDGECOCK / JHE

The magic touch

The magic touch

Professional organizer helps you make the best use of your space

BY KAREN UNDERWOOD
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT - As the clock counts down this year with shouts to the first of January, and folks around the nation make promises they likely will not keep, perhaps you should consider the state of your messy closet, house or home office and vow to bring the new year in with a fresh start.

But if the job seems too big, professional organizer Alli McVann can help clear the dust and bring clarity to a hazy space.

"I help them understand that the collection of broken cups from Burger King have no value," McVann said about how she helps her clients. She convinces people to purge or repurpose items, and to "understand the psychology of what a person experiences when they're talking about Aunt Betty's pots and pans," she said. "I help them free up some space in their life."

McVann started her business, Allicadabra, in January 2007 and was

drawn to the job because it's "physical and creative and really, really personal," she said. A person with a lot of energy, McVann likes being active in her job.

"I come out of bed like this. I don't drink coffee," she said.

With a creative eye, McVann can

'I come out of bed like this. I don't drink coffee.'

Alli McVann
Owner, Allicadabra

see what the end result of a room will look like, even while in disarray.

"It covers my right and left brain," she said about the job. But rest assured: With McVann, the experience will be fun. "My first goal is to get people to laugh," she said. McVann begins with a consultation with new clients to make sure they get along. She said the business is very personal because you're touching people's

stuff, and she likes to make sure they have the same idea in mind for what they want.

A bit of a renaissance woman, McVann's experience encompasses many industries. Originally from Ohio, McVann was a nuclear weapons specialist in the U.S. Air Force for four years, and while there, received a degree in industrial technology. Living in California, Tennessee, North Carolina and back to California, McVann has done everything from manage people to work in the entertainment industry. A rainy day in Wilmington, McVann said she woke up, decided to move to Los Angeles, got in her car and drove 1,000 miles a day until she found herself again on the West Coast.

She wanted to work in the entertainment industry, and a few years later, ended up as a set dresser on the "Ellen Degeneres Show" for two years. When the producers of "Mad About You" called Ellen and asked McVann to come work for them, she accepted for four years, and got to work with her "ultimate hero of all

time, Carol Burnett," McVann said.

After years in the entertainment industry, she decided to switch careers. "I want to make a positive contribution to this planet," she said about ethical problems she had with Hollywood. Her next venture was a house flipper. McVann flipped 20 properties in four years until she moved to High Point to be close to her parents.

But as change happens and bad things occur, "There's good in everything," McVann said. "I'm just glad to wake up every morning."

A sergeant in the Air Force in less than three years, McVann is ambitious. "I've always gotten places fast," she said. She hopes that this business will continue to grow as her previous careers. She has clients as far as Raleigh and Ocracoke. "No person is the same as the previous," she said about why she likes the job.

To find out more about Allicadabra, visit www.allicadabra.com.

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