

WACOANS SHARE  
NEW YEAR WISHES  
P. 38

OFF THE COURT  
WITH BRITTNEY  
P. 44

BIG RED MARKS  
ITS 75th YEAR  
P. 50

SPECIAL SECTION:  
ALL ABOUT WEDDINGS  
P. 57

# Waco Today

A publication of the Waco Tribune-Herald

January 2012



## BLASTING INTO THE FUTURE

SpaceX chief Elon Musk puts  
the final frontier within reach

# Get organized



## From this to this in 2012

By Jessica Chia / Photos by Jerry Larson

**T**he beginning of each year signals a fresh start for many people – a chance to get back on track or to try something new.

It's no wonder that January has been designated National Get Organized Month by the National Association of Professional Organizers.

Being better organized can provide energy, time and happiness, say a pair of Waco organizing professionals.

Jennifer Snyder is a certified member of the National Association

of Professional Organizers, and founded her business, Neat as a Pin! Organizing Experts, in 2009.

The former event planner said she “stumbled” into the business after agreeing to organize the home office of one of her clients.

Since then, demand for her services has grown beyond her expectations. In addition to her organizing business, Snyder teaches an organization course at McLennan Community College, volunteers her services to

nonprofit groups through a program called Quantum Leap, speaks to groups and companies, and is on the verge of copyrighting her own time-management process.

Rebecca Million started her business, More Helping Hands, in 2011. Her service, like Snyder's, focuses on maximizing time. More Helping Hands offers a variety of services targeted at busy clients, from dog walking to grocery shopping, in addition to organizational assistance.

Snyder offers these tips for tackling some common sources of disorganization:

- To combat paper clutter, which quickly accumulates in workplaces and households, Snyder recommends creating "action files." If papers don't fall into one of five time-sensitive categories: "urgent," "pending," "review," "to be filed" or "to be paid," they belong in the trash.

- Using drawers, not piles, to store papers and items also helps because items can be easily accessed and dealt with, even if they're on the bottom. It's important to identify exactly what goes in each drawer, however, or it will quickly become a catch-all and a source of disorganization.

- For households with children, Snyder encourages color-coding everything to increase accountability for things left lying around and to reduce confusion. Communicating clearly how things such as laundry and dishes are to be taken care of and delegating the care of various common rooms to specific members of the family or roommates has the same effect.

There is, however, much more to organization than orderly files and color-coded bins, Snyder said. That traditional idea of "organized," seen in images of organized spaces in magazines and on television, can

actually be an obstacle to organization, she said.

Snyder emphasized that methods of organization need to be tailored to individuals or households, otherwise they won't work.

"You can buy everything at the container store and you still won't be organized," she said. "As long as you can find what you're looking for and you keep things where they're supposed to be, and you eliminate unnecessary clutter, then you're organized ... in your way."

Organization can easily become the last priority amidst life's demands, but Snyder and Million said it's important to get your space in order.

"Organization brings a level of peace and tranquility to your life," Snyder said. "Clutter makes noise, it makes energetic noise. It sucks your energy from you." Clutter also attracts dust and pests, she added.

Million agreed that clutter overwhelms the senses at a certain point.

"You can't think when you're in a situation of such disorganization," she said. "To make you more creative, productive, and energetic, you need organization."

Organization can change lives, Million said. "I really think it does improve it. You can find things. You don't spend as much time looking for



"Organization brings a level of peace and tranquility to your life," says Jennifer Snyder of Neat as a Pin! Organizing Experts.

**JOB-LINK**

**TEMPORARY  
AND  
DIRECT HIRE**

- Professional
- Office/Clerical
- Light Industrial
- Warehouse

**399-WORK (9675)**

[www.JobLinkTX.com](http://www.JobLinkTX.com)

Triangle Tower  
510 N. Valley Mills Drive  
Suite 306



*Nikki Romano Oates*  
**LOCALLY OWNED  
& OPERATED**

stuff. It's a time thing. We only have so much time."

For some, disorganization is simply the result of a full schedule or a full house. For others, it carries emotional implications.

"Outer clutter is the result of inner clutter somewhere," Snyder said. "Clutter is basically sending a message there's something in your life that you need to get at. A lot of times when I'm working with people, we're talking, and you know, they're sharing pieces of their lives with me and after a while it becomes evident what that is."

Because organization can be a personal thing – involving a person's emotions, habits and lifestyle – Million and Snyder said building trust and providing support are key components to assisting anyone going through the organizational process.

"It's a very mental thing, letting go of stuff, being ready to let it go," Million said. "When you have someone there with you, it makes it easier to disengage so you can get through it."

Snyder agreed. "It's very difficult for some people. They cancel at the last minute because they're scared. I come in and I'm very gentle with them. I try to keep it light, very funny, because it's a very heavy thing for them. They have to make the decision to let it go, even to the trash."

Trying to determine whether an item should stay or go can be challenging, but Snyder has guidelines to make those decisions easier.

Snyder's mantra is: "You shouldn't have anything in your home that doesn't make you happy."

Items associated with marriages or relationships that ended negatively, or items that call to mind a painful time, such as a death or loss, should be discarded and replaced, if necessary.

"Say you were dating someone and they gave you this great piece of jewelry. Really, that piece reminds you of the broken heart that you experienced in the end," Snyder said.

With some exceptions, Snyder cautions against keeping items solely for their sentimental value.

"We keep things because they represent something for us," she said. "What we have to do as people is to understand that the thing isn't the event, it isn't the memory."

Snyder offered a personal example.

"My grandfather passed away and I got the felt cowboy hat," she said. "The hat is hanging in the closet, collecting dust. At no point am I like, 'Oh, you know, I miss him, I'm going to wear his hat.' It occurred to me that he would want someone to wear it. So I talked to my dad about giving it to my cousin, who would wear it, and would wear it proudly."

Snyder also advises people not to keep things around "just in case."

"My take on the 'just in case' is, think about how much it costs to begin with. Now you're paying to store it, heating it and cooling it, and it's just taking up space. When I work with people, I ask them, 'What is an ideal scenario for you to use this in?' and then, 'What is the likelihood that that ideal scenario will actually occur?'"

# Times may change but...

*Tradition  
& Family  
Care  
Remain*



Members American Dental Association  
**STARR GENERAL DENTISTRY**  
*Our family serving yours.*

6400 Cobbs Dr., Suite 500

254-776-7410

[www.starrdentistry.com](http://www.starrdentistry.com)

We accept most dental insurance. Financing is available.  
Emergencies handled promptly.

Snyder organizes for no more than four hours at a time, to give her clients time to adjust to the improvements.

"It didn't get that way overnight. It's a lifestyle change. You're changing the way you think about things and becoming more emotionally healthy," she said.

## What to do with castoffs

Once a space is organized, there will inevitably be bags of items to discard.

Rebecca Million, who runs More Helping Hands, recommends taking unwanted items that are still in good condition to one of Waco's resale shops or service agencies. She cited Goodwill, Caritas, Mission Waco, Art Center Waco and the Family Abuse Center as places she frequently takes items to be donated.

Million suggests making an itemized list of donations to receive tax deductions, and discarding things properly, such as erasing computer hard drives before dropping them off at a donation center.

Especially after the holidays, such donations are a great way to improve your life and the lives of others, she said.

"We buy and we buy, and people give us stuff, and they're buying and we're buying, and every once in a while it's time to share," Million said.

WT



### Organizing experts

Neat as a Pin!  
Jennifer Snyder  
715-3888  
jennifer@neatasapin.net  
Online: neatasapin.net

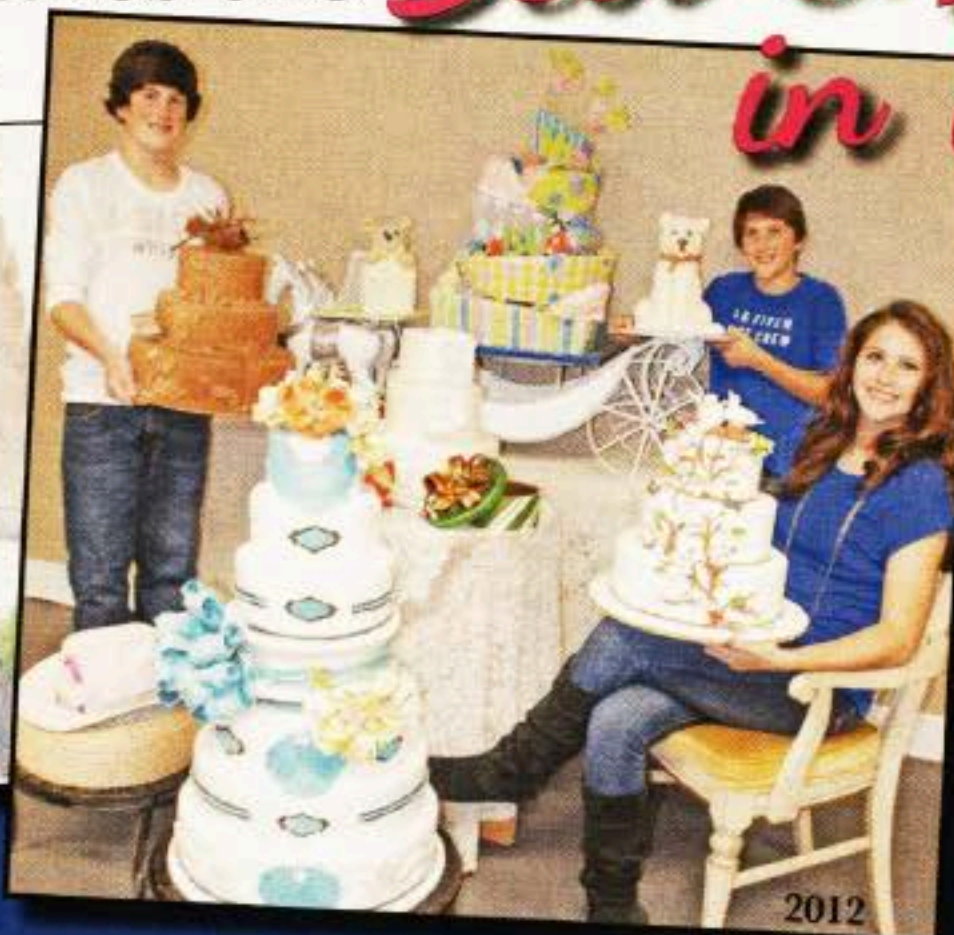
More Helping Hands  
Rebecca Million  
709-3486  
rebecca.million@yahoo.com

# "Grandma STILL Makes the Best Cakes in Town!"

Owner Esther Allen



2002  
Jaxon, Jordyn & Grant



2012

Health Certified  
Walk-in Bake Shop  
Wedding & Groom Cakes

All Occasion Custom  
Designer Cakes

Classes Available  
& Supply Shop  
Coming Soon

Gluten-free  
Cupcakes & Cakes  
Sugar-free Cakes  
& Cupcakes

## Sugar Art Specialties Bakery

104 Deana, Robinson • 254-405-5706  
M 12-6, Tu-F 10-6, Sat 9-12, Closed Holidays

Like us on Facebook  
for CLASS EVENTS

WeddingCakesByEsther.com