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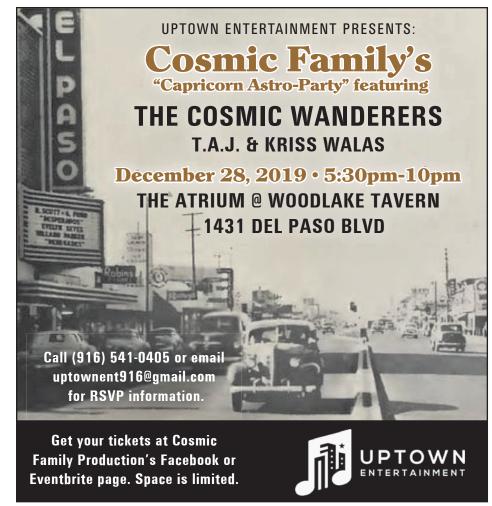
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Danyelle Petersen and Gary Schiff offer thousands of treasures in their estate sale building on Del Paso Boulevard.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

Thrill of discovery fills this building

Schiff Estate Services offers help as well as finds

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

S tepping inside the Schiff's Estate Sale Building is a retro trip into a garage sale multiplied by 1,000; a random yet indicative glimpse into the private lives of people you never knew.

The sort-of organized showroom is an expedition into stuff – Fiestaware, original paintings, chairs, cabinets, model trains, wine glasses, Asian screens and sculptures, antique spoons, lamps, Native American drums and pottery, carpets, jewelry, pairs of boots, cameras, toys. Over here is a 1950s hand-painted lampshade depicting a Hopi Indian ceremony, topping a burlwood base (\$850). Over there is a box of vinyl LP records (anyone up for some Young Rascals?).

Name it and it's likely somewhere among the trove of delightful discoveries.

Like the trio of imposing hand-made dirigible-looking "flying machines" hanging from the ceiling, three of 50 crafted by a local artist (\$1,800, \$1,500 and \$1,200).

Proprietors Gary Schiff and Danyelle Petersen, both certified appraisers, share a profession that regularly takes them into strangers' homes at the most stressful of times. They're hired to organize and run estate sales, liquidating the contents of homes by inviting the public in for open houses. The reason for an estate sale might involve a death, divorce, bankruptcy, downsizing or change of residence.

"We will come in to the home, find out from family members what's for sale, price it at fair market value, and ask the family to remove what's not for sale," Petersen explained. "We ask that they not be there during the estate sale because it can be extremely emotional for them."

Schiff Estate Services sets up the sale, staffs it, promotes it via email,



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