



J.L. SOUSA PHOTOS, REGISTER

Customers pay for purchases at Shackford's Kitchen Store in downtown Napa, which Patrick Merkley recently purchased.

Changing of the guard at Shackford's

New owners pledge to preserve story legacy

FOR THE REGISTER

Shackford's Kitchen Store and More is operating under new ownership as of this past Friday.

The iconic kitchen store, which has been run for 43 years by John Shackford and his late wife, Donna, has been purchased by longtime Napa residents Patrick and Alix Merkley.

Patrick Merkley wouldn't disclose the business purchase price, but said he agreed to buy the building at 1350 Main St. from Shackford for about \$1.8 million.

The new Shackford's will be like the old Shackford's and will continue to carry all the essential products that made the store a staple of the valley, said a news release.

They will, however, make room for a few new additions.

The new owners plan to create a culinary center that will cater to the chef, baker, and homemaker by adding an array of artisanal products for the kitchen and home, building a test kitchen, and employing an executive chef who will lend his knowledge to customers.

Patrick Merkley, who previously forged a successful career in international business development, has owned and oper-

ated several catering businesses that have relied on the products that Shackford's offered.

Because of this, he is passionate about preserving the store, and Mr. Shackford's, legacy, said the release.

During the transition, Shackford and Merkley have worked together to determine how to implement new technologies in the store that will compliment the best-selling products that have made Shackford's a go-to kitchen store.

Merkley has been exploring various avenues including electronic receipts, sous vide precision cookers, and cookware enabled with Bluetooth capabilities.

Beginning in January 2019, Merkley will begin construction on a test kitchen that will offer a range of culinary services.

Services will include cooking classes, and product demonstration. The kitchen will also host a community table.

In 1975, John and Donna Shackford bought a hardware store in downtown Napa. The Shackford's transformed the now-defunct hardware store into Shackford's Kitchen Store and More, a culinary destination.

The store provides a range of products at different prices with a mission to offer products to everyone from the culinary novice to the gourmet chef.



Patrick Merkley, who recently took ownership of Shackford's Kitchen Store in downtown Napa, helps a customer find the perfect frying pan on Monday afternoon.



Franny Hancock, left, is the daughter of Patrick Merkley, who recently took ownership of Shackford's Kitchen Store in downtown Napa. She works with customer service sales associate Gillian Roberts with new equipment.