

## **San Joaquin County Historical Museum**

11793 North Micke Grove Road  
Lodi, California 95240  
Phone: (209) 331-2055

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Contact: David Stuart, executive director  
(209) 331-2055 or 953- 3460  
[davidstuart@sanjoaquinhistory.org](mailto:davidstuart@sanjoaquinhistory.org)

## **David Stuart named new executive director of San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum**

David R. Stuart has been named new Executive Director of the San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum, DeeAnne Gillick, president of the museum's board of trustees, announced today.

Stuart, 54, is a native of Ripon and the descendent of a Gold Rush 49er who founded Stuart's Tree Nursery which still operates in French Camp. Stuart currently is a Sacramento resident and was most recently employed as the vice president of operations for the Foundation of California Community Colleges.

"David has a personal love for the history of San Joaquin County. He also has a passion for teaching the public about history and for history museums," Gillick said. "After 10 years away from museums, David is recharged and excited to return to his chosen field. He feels that all his past experience has prepared him to make a difference with the San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum."

Stuart, who began work Monday, fills the non-profit museum's top administrative position left vacant since last January.

As a young student at Modesto Junior College, Stuart worked as a seasonal park interpreter at Caswell Memorial State Park in south San Joaquin County. He went on to get his bachelor's degree in anthropology at California State University, Fresno in 1975 and attended graduate school at the University of Colorado. He was the first assistant state archaeologist of Colorado and later was a planner and senior archaeologist for the National Park Service.

In the 1980s, Stuart returned to California to supervise the Albinger Archaeological Museum, two historic adobe house museums, and educational programs in Ventura. In 1988, he moved to Sacramento to become the executive director and administrator of the Sacramento Science Center. When funding was cut, Stuart led the effort to combine the Science Center and the History Museum into one new non-profit entity now known as the Discovery Museum. He was the first executive director of the Discovery Museum.

In 1996, Stuart became assistant executive director of the non-profit statewide Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. In 1999, he became the vice president of operations for the non-profit Foundation for California Community Colleges, an auxiliary to the 109-college system's Board of Governors.

Stuart is married and has two grown children and one granddaughter.

The San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum, located in Micke Grove Park, began in 1966 when the supervisors agreed to form a partnership to collect and store historically significant items for a museum. The first museum building was built in 1971. Today, the museum covers 20 acres and is comprised of nine buildings, four historic and replica buildings, more than 100 tractors and 50,000 artifacts in its collection.