



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**Sue M. Cobb**  
Secretary of State

For Immediate Release  
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### **Apalachee Chief Returns to Historic Capital**

**WHAT: Public Broadcasting Service's "History Detectives" Films at Mission San Luis**

**WHO:** Gilmer Bennett, chief of the Talimali Band of the Apalachee Indians of Louisiana, and PBS's "History Detectives"

**WHERE:** Mission San Luis  
2021 West Mission Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32304  
For more information, visit [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org).

**WHEN:** Sunday, March 5, 2006—Tuesday, March 7, 2006

**WHY:** Before it was Florida's capital city, Tallahassee was the site of the western capital of more than 100 Spanish missions. Spanish friars, soldiers and civilians established Mission San Luis in 1656 at the request of the Apalachee Indians, who voluntarily converted to Catholicism. The residents of San Luis evacuated the mission two days before British forces reached it in 1704.

The Apalachee tribe was not heard from again until 1996, when Apalachee Chief Gilmer Bennett contacted Bonnie McEwan, the Mission's executive director. This Monday, Bennett will return to his tribe's former capital. The crew of PBS's "History Detectives" will interview him for an upcoming episode on Mission San Luis. **Bennett will be available for interviews on Monday, March 6. In addition, media are invited to document PBS's visit to the historic site on Monday, March 6 and Tuesday, March 7. Interested media can contact Lauren Van Lierop at 850.413.9702.**

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