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GLENN BEIL/Democrat  
Julie Kurisko teaches visitors at Mission San Luis about 17th-century life.

# Visitors at mission try 1600s-style food prep

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Visitors at Mission San Luis tried their hands at 17th-century food preparation Saturday during the "Giving Thanks at Mission San Luis" event.

Children and their parents made hickory-nut oil by crushing the nuts and boiling them and then using a feather to capture the oil. They also stuck cloves in oranges to make citrus-scented pomanders.

Volunteers wore period clothing and led the demonstrations, designed to give visitors a taste of what life was like for the Spanish settlers and Apalachee Indians who lived at the mission in the 1600s.

"The focus today is living in history," said Julia Kurisko, who portrayed Juana Catherina de Florencia, sister to merchant mariner Deigo de Florencia. "The Spanish have always been giving thanks with large celebrations. However, historically not on any particular day. We decided to tie this in with Thanksgiving for everyone else."

Kurisko said this is the second year

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## LOCAL

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Costumed interpreters spread throughout the grounds of Mission San Luis, making oil, smoking meat and fish on the barbacoa, demonstrating the use of native and European plants from the Mission's gardens and fields and getting ready for the feast. Visitors observed how people and foods from the New and Old Worlds came together to create a unique cuisine.

## SAN LUIS

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of the event, which last year attracted nearly 500 people despite the rain. She expected attendance at the event, which started Friday, to exceed that number.

In the Council House, volunteer Edwardo Gonzalez described how casina, a beverage known as the "Black Drink," was made from yaupon holly plants, a highly caffeinated, black-colored beverage

similar to tea drunk long ago at the mission. Brave visitors sampled the drink.

Elizabeth Sewell, in town from Utah to visit relatives for Thanksgiving, came to the event with her son, Benjamin, 2, and her husband. Benjamin had fun picking up cannon balls in the fort.

"This has been a fascinating way to learn about Florida history," she said. "It was very hands-on for the kids. They got to crush nuts and corn, chase chickens and smell the food. It was very nice."