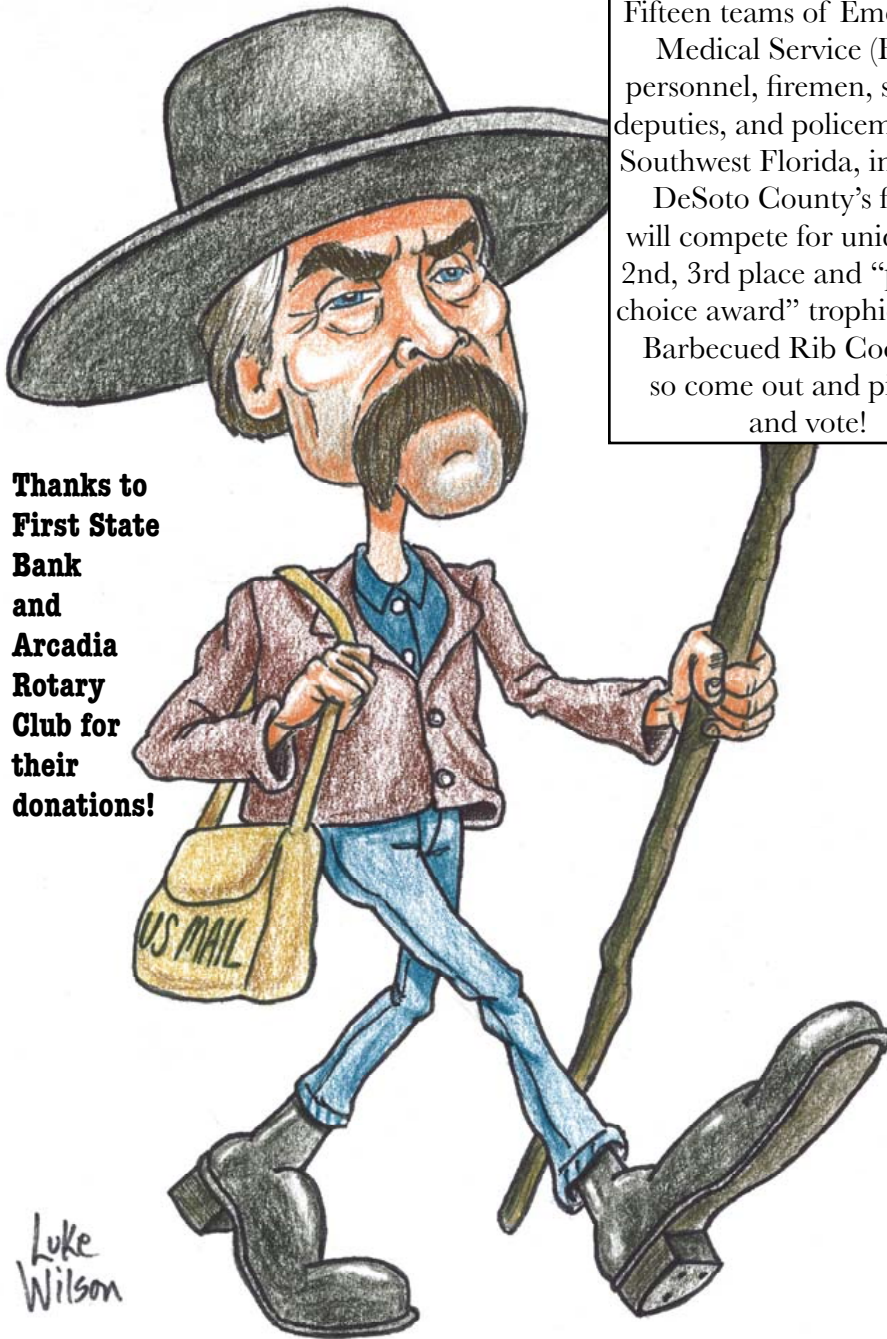


The DeSoto County Historical Society presents the

# Sixth Annual Pioneer Day and Barbecued Rib Cook-off

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 20, at DeSoto Park



Thanks to  
First State  
Bank  
and  
Arcadia  
Rotary  
Club for  
their  
donations!

Fifteen teams of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel, firemen, sheriff's deputies, and policemen from Southwest Florida, including DeSoto County's finest, will compete for unique 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and "people's choice award" trophies in the Barbecued Rib Cook-off, so come out and pig out and vote!

• Enjoy a visit from DeSoto County's legendary "Acrefoot" Johnson and Arcadia Albritton, "whip crackers," a frontier shoot out, vintage cars, antique engines, a classic fire truck--plus, entertainment, Florida authors, horseshoe pitching, cows, horses and other live animals thanks in part to a donation from Tractor Supply and more!

• Appreciate demonstrations of the old-time skills of wood carving, pine needle basket-making, quilting, tating, soap making, blacksmithing, and butter churning.

- Savor tasty treats such as homemade jams and jellies, cane syrup, kettle corn, the best finger-licking, lip-smacking, sweet and tangy barbecued ribs you've ever eaten, hot dogs, lima beans and rice, swamp cabbage, and strawberry shortcake!
- Participate in drawings every half hour for gifts, and a 50/50 drawing, too! All funds raised will preserve and promote the history of DeSoto County for future generations.
- For children: pony rides will be available, plus a "Discover History" area featuring: cane pole fishin', a fossil dig thanks in part to a donation from Mosaic, a hands-on "Pioneer Kitchen"--plus old-fashioned games, traditional toys, and **50 wood fire engines for children to build, thanks to a donation from Lowe's in Port Charlotte!**

## James Mitchell "Acrefoot" Johnson (1850-1922)

At nearly seven feet tall and weighing 250 lbs., he was called "Acrefoot" either because he wore size 14 shoes or because of the 130-mile round trip that he walked to deliver the mail from Fort Ogden to Fort Meade.

Contact Bebe Jackson at 863-494-6607 or Kay and Leonard Higley at 863-494-1060 or online at [historicparkerhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:historicparkerhouse@yahoo.com) or [www.historicdesoto.org](http://www.historicdesoto.org).