

Charleston County News Release

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See photos: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/2007backhoerodeo.htm>

Charleston County Takes Third Place in Regional Public Works Rodeo

Three of Charleston County's Public Works Department equipment operators had the honor of competing in the American Public Works Association Regional Backhoe Rodeo, and one finished in third place. The champion within Charleston County, Burley Crosby, initially tied for second place at the regional competition and finished in third place after a tie-breaker.

The county employees were three of 18 participants representing a variety of counties and cities who competed for the region's top spot in Georgetown in May. This year marks the first time that Charleston County Public Works has placed in the top three regional finalists.

Charleston County employees who participated in the regional competition are:

- Burley Crosby - Equipment Operator II (placed third overall in region)
- Roger Elliot - Equipment Operator I
- Ed Harp - Equipment Operator I

"Participation in the rodeo allows our employees a chance to display their skills and experience, as well as become recognized as Charleston County's finest equipment operators," said Benjamin Blanks, Field Operations Manager for Charleston County's Public Works Department. "I am extremely proud to serve in county government with these gentlemen; they have great attitudes and never waver from the job task or mission."

The Regional Backhoe Rodeo Competition provides a public forum to demonstrate the skills of personnel in the operation of backhoes, while providing an opportunity to recognize exceptional performance. Local contestants who were invited to the regional competition are experienced, recognized operators employed by Charleston County Government.

The competition consists of events that focus on operational requirements and emphasize safety. Judges are qualified in the observation of safe and proper backhoe operational techniques and are impartial to the participants.

Prior to the regionals, Charleston County's Public Works Department held its own competition in Charleston. Participants in this event were:

- Frank Allred
- Kevin Brown
- Dario Buggs
- Randy Chesser
- Dean Craig
- Burley Crosby
- Charles Doctor
- Charles Eaton
- Roger Elliot
- Walter Gaillard, Jr.
- Marvin Green
- David Halavonich
- Edward Harp
- Maurice Heyward
- Kenny Haselden

- Paul Porter
- Darrel Reynolds

The winners of the County's competition were:

- 1st Place: Burley Crosby
- 2nd Place: Ed Harp
- 3rd Place: Roger Elliot
- 4th Place: Kenny Haselden

Visit the Charleston County Web site at www.charlestoncounty.org for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government. For more information on the Charleston County Public Works Department, visit <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/index2.asp?p=/departments/PublicWorks/D-PublicWorks.htm>.

- Written by Jennie Davis -