



ANDREA MELENDEZ/REGISTER FILE PHOTO

This image of Patricia Neely being rescued by Jason Oglesbee has earned the Register's Andrea Melendez the Associated Press Managing Editors Showcase Photo of the Year award.

Register staff members win two AP contests

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines Register staff members will be presented with two national awards this month in St. Louis.

Photographer Andrea Melendez will be presented with the Associated Press Managing Editors Showcase Photo of the Year award for a dramatic photo showing a construction worker suspended from a crane rescuing a woman from the Des Moines River.

"We just felt like we were there witnessing it," the contest judges said when the award was announced last week. "What a great job

by the photographer. Great moment. Great composition. Every monthly winner was a strong contender and it was a difficult decision, but in the end, this one made it to the top."

In addition, a team of Register staff members headed by reporter Tony Leys and photographer Arturo Fernandez won first place in the Associated Press Managing Editors contest in the International Perspectives division for a special report titled "Hope At Any Cost," published last November.

Leys and Fernandez trav-

eled to Central America so they could explain for Iowa readers why hundreds of Guatemalans sneaked into the United States and risked prison sentences to work at the Agriprocessors meatpacking plant in Postville.

Other staff members involved in that project included section editor Kathy Bolten, copy editor Lucas Grundmeier, graphic artist Katie Kunert and page designer Scott Lester.

The awards will be presented Oct. 29 at the Associated Press Managing Editors national conference.