

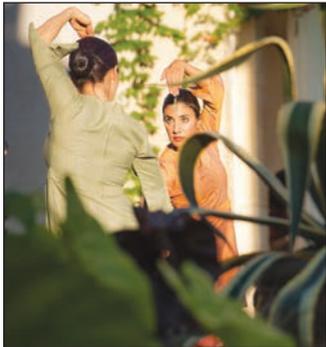
THE RIVERTOWNS Enterprise

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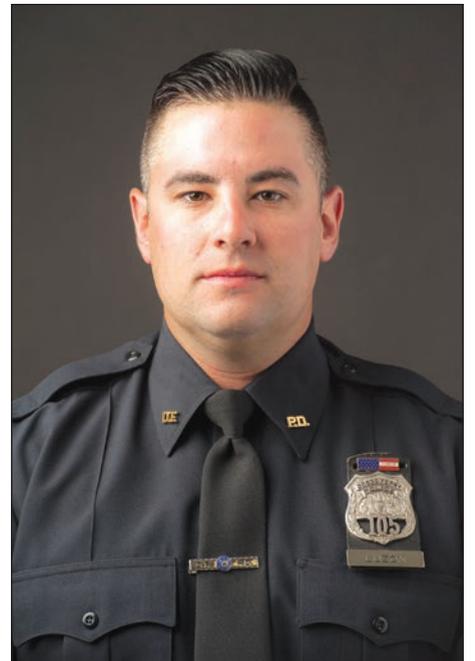
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Andres DeJesus



John Lindner



Dylan Luzon

First responders rescue woman from flood

By Kris DiLorenzo

REGION — In the midst of the considerable loss caused by Hurricane Ida, a life was saved by Dobbs Ferry police officers Andres DeJesus and Dylan Luzon, and Hastings Fire Department assistant chief John Lindner.

On Wednesday, Sept. 1, at about 11 p.m., the three men rescued a 42-year-old woman who was clinging to a tree, in water up to her neck, between the northbound Saw Mill Parkway and the South County Trail, which is parallel to the parkway.

The woman's rented BMW had become submerged near Cliff Street in Hastings as intense rain transformed the parkway into an extension of its namesake. She climbed through the sunroof to escape and then phoned her father who relayed information back and forth to police.

Luzon, 31, and DeJesus, 35, rushed to the rescue in separate cars, but had to travel through Hastings, the only feasible route, and leave their cars on Farragut Avenue.

The officers were on foot until Lindner, 59, arrived in a Chevy Suburban command vehicle. Concerned that the water would cause the engine to stall if he stopped, Lindner instructed them to climb into the back seat as the SUV pushed north on the southbound side of the parkway.

"At times the water would splash right over the front when we were moving," Lindner said. "We really shouldn't have been out there, but we did what we had to do."

Other first responders were unable to reach the scene before the woman was rescued, including a Hastings fire engine to the south and, to the north, members of the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department aboard a payloador borrowed from the Dobbs Ferry Department of Public Works.

Near the woman's location, the two officers and Lindner waded into the water on the parkway.

"We saw her brake lights underwater; it was the only reason we were able to find her car," Luzon said.

The men yelled for her; she yelled back. Due to the absence of streetlights along that section of the parkway, they used flashlights to locate her — south of where her car was underwater.

"The waters were moving a little bit, so she probably got pushed there, about 30 feet further south of where she was," Luzon said. "That was the first thing she could cling onto."

The water level at the road's median was shallower, Luzon recalled, but "The water got deeper very quickly as you made it near the shoulder. Where she was, I couldn't touch the bottom — and she was a very

short individual... It was just her head and shoulders that were above the water."

To reach the woman, the three men linked arms to form a chain with Luzon at the front end. When asked how they managed to move the woman from the tree, across the deep water to the median area, Luzon was modest.

"It wasn't much, you know. I just told her to hold onto me," he said.

The three rescuers and the woman drove back to Farragut Avenue as water surrounded Lindner's SUV. Hastings EMS personnel evaluated her, and according to Luzon, determined she was not injured. He reckons she was "just shocked."

"The only thing I remember her saying on the way back to the ambulance was 'I'm freezing,'" Luzon recalled.

Prior to joining the Dobbs Ferry Police Department in 2019, DeJesus had been a corrections officers while Luzon had been a specialist in the U.S. Army. Nine years ago, Luzon joined the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department. He is now captain of the Livingston Hose Company.

Lindner has been a member of the Hastings Fire Department since 1981. He served as chief from 2019 to 2021. He is now the third assistant chief. From 1984 to 2005, he was a member of the NYPD, retiring as a detective with the organized crime task force.

Commission deadlocked over redistricting

By Jackie Lupo

REGION — The New York Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) is charged with redrawing district borders for the U.S. House of Representatives and for the state Senate and Assembly after each census.

On Sept. 15, the date the 10-person commission was expected to release those new district maps, they announced instead that the five Democrats and five Republicans had been unable to reach consensus on where

the redistricting lines should be drawn.

The commission — whose formation was mandated by a 2014 amendment to the New York State Constitution in an effort to prevent gerrymandering along party lines — ended up splitting along party lines.

The IRC received the 2020 census data on Aug. 12. Unable to agree on where the new district lines should be drawn, the commissioners created two sets of party-aligned maps and released those to the public on Sept. 15.

The commission's website, nyirc.

gov, has sections showing the current district lines based on the 2010 census, and two new sets of maps for Congress, state Senate, and state Assembly. The map set called "Letters" shows the Democrats' recommended district lines; the one called "Names" shows the Republicans' version.

To date, the only certainty is that the number of Congressional seats in New York State will decrease from 27 to 26, based on the latest census figures. But

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