

# TIMES-CALL

No. 169

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008 | LONGMONT, COLORADO

50 cents

## **Wear a white ribbon**

Holiday lights and snow on a Christmas night are spectacular. It's the small things you appreciate when you are an officer working on Christmas.

However, this particular night changed quickly for the worse, a night I will never forget.

A woman that evening dialed 911 for help. As we arrived, a Christmas tree was thrown out the front door at us. We could see all of the day's gifts smashed in the living room.

I still see the mother cowering and crying, fear in her eyes. The refrigerator and the stove dumped on their sides in the kitchen. Two small girls clad in their "feety" pajamas in fetal positions on the kitchen counter, the only safe place in the house they could find.

I cannot count the number of suspects who I have arrested who have come from very similar abusive family environments.

These suspects watched their mothers abused. They went on to perpetrate the same type of crimes on the women in their lives.

I am wearing a white ribbon to remind men to stand up and not tolerate acts of violence against women. It is time to "man up" and help stop these types of events. Verbal and physical abuse scar everyone in the family and only lead to further issues in the family and in society. Be a leader, stand up and help stop domestic violence.

Educate yourself about violence against women. Talk to others about this issue. Watch for signs of abuse in your family, friends and workplace. Help guide victims to assistance and support. Don't ignore this very real issue. You can make a difference. Show your support — wear a white ribbon and get involved.

**CMDR. TIM LEWIS**  
Longmont Police  
Department