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Sunday TIMES-CALL

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DAILY TIMES-CALL

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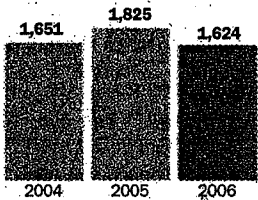
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FRONT RANGE

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B

Handling abuse man to man

**Domestic abuse cases
in Boulder County**



Source: Boulder County Domestic Abuse Prevention Project
Times-Call graphic

Campaign aims to rally men against domestic violence

By Rachel Carter
The Daily Times-Call

LONGMONT — Michael Morrison thinks of it like this: About 10 percent of domestic violence offenders he treats walk away from therapy changed men.

About 80 percent learn some lessons from treatment and apply them to their daily lives. They manage to “get through and get along,” said Morrison, a licensed professional counselor who treats domes-

“Instead of just asking, ‘Why doesn’t she leave?’ we should be asking ‘Why does he do that?’”

Longmont Police Officer Greg Malsan

tic violence offenders.

But treatment does nothing for about 10 percent of offenders, he said.

“We don’t even touch them,” he said.

“We don’t even get through to them, and they are the ones who have a high risk of

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Get involved

Wear white ribbons and purple shirts in the city of Longmont. Police Department, 225 Kimbark St., at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 603-771-1547 for get ribbons. Wear a white ribbon and purple shirt. Campaign is for men who have committed violence. Remain silent about violence against women. Urge other men and boys to wear white ribbons.

Part of the city's anti-violence campaign is to raise awareness of domestic violence and businesses in the Longmont area. The flyers also are available in Spanish.

ABUSE: Campaign continues through June 24

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re-offending."

Morrison, whose office is in Longmont, provides court-ordered therapy for men who have been convicted of domestic violence offenses. The standard treatment program is one session a week for 36 weeks. In more serious cases, the court orders 52 weeks of therapy.

"I don't think there's a cure per se," said Morrison, who has worked with domestic violence offenders for about 35 years. "Like other addictive behaviors, they have to learn how to deal with things in a different way. It takes a lot of hard work and effort."

Today is the start of a two-week campaign that officials with the Longmont Ending Violence Initiative, LEVI, organized to enlist and engage men to fight domestic violence.

The Father's Day White Ribbon Campaign, which runs through June 24, is designed to rally men in the community to reach out to other men, teens and boys to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Because men are the offenders in most domestic violence cases, police and community leaders hope the campaign will help educate others about the issue and help stem the tide of cases in Longmont.

National agencies report that

Boulder County domestic abuse cases in 2006

Agency	Report	Under investigation & Outstanding warrants	Book & release	Warrant	Summons	Arrest	Total	Both parties charged
Boulder	55	34	0	50	0	284	423	26
Boulder Sheriff	10	17	1	25	1	133	187	4
Longmont	187	27	0	83	0	323	620	12
Total cases (all agencies)	389	100	1	198	2	934	1,624	68

Source: Boulder County Domestic Abuse Prevention Project

Times-Call graphic

men are the aggressors in more than 90 percent of all domestic violence incidents.

Longmont police, however, arrested men 77 percent of the time and women 23 percent of the time in the 746 domestic violence cases officers handed in 2005, police records show.

Those percentages are typical for Longmont and most of the Front Range, Longmont Police Officer Greg Malsam said; in Boulder County, men are the aggressors in about 75 percent of cases, he said.

Malsam has been handling domestic violence cases for more than 30 years; he started the city's two-person domestic violence unit in 1997.

Domestic violence does not affect only its victims, Malsam said. It hurts children, families, friends, co-workers, companies and the community as a whole.

"What I would really like to see is men become more in-

Father's Day White Ribbon campaign

The Longmont Ending Violence Initiative, LEVI, organized the Father's Day White Ribbon campaign to enlist men to end violence against women. The campaign begins today and goes through June 24. Historically, the issue of domestic violence has been relegated to women, who often are the victims. LEVI officials believe that if men in the community rally, they can help reduce domestic violence.

involved and hold each other accountable, or hold everybody accountable," Malsam said.

"Instead of just asking, 'Why doesn't she leave?' we should be asking 'Why does he do that?'"

But there is no pat answer why people — men in particular — hit, hurt, threaten and intimidate their partners, Morrison said.

"For a lot of men, they don't see much wrong in what they're doing," he said.

Some men grew up watching their parents fight, so resorting

to violence or intimidation sometimes is a learned behavior, he said. Others succumb to stereotypes of male behavior and view backing down or walking away as weak, Morrison said.

Some offenders resort to threats and violence because they feel like they're losing control over a wife or girlfriend, he said.

Most domestic violence offenders already are plagued by self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy, which they mask by act-

A play to end violence

What: "Voices of Men," a one-man play about ending violence against women

When: 7 p.m. Monday, June 18

Where: LifeBridge Christian Church, 10345 Colo. Highway 66

Cost: Free

Information: The play uses humor and celebrity male impressions to bring the topic of violence to the audience. The educational comedy addresses the way we form our perspectives on violence. It may not be appropriate for children. Performance includes scenes depicting violence against women.

"Anger isn't bad. It's what you do with it."

Michael Morrison, a licensed professional counselor

ing macho and tough, he added.

Morrison tries to teach domestic violence offenders to learn how to avoid escalating a situation by walking away or taking a "time out."

He also works with the men to help them identify their feelings. Morrison believes most anger stems from one of three emotions: fear, sadness or hurt.

Midway through their treatment, he asks offenders: "Can

anybody make you angry?"

"Initially, everybody says, 'Of course.' But then they begin to recognize that they're responsible for their feelings, and they recognize that the person they're dealing with is not the problem."

He added, "Anger isn't bad. It's what you do with it."

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