

# TIMES-CALL

No. 297

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008 | LONGMONT, COLORADO

50 cents

## Longmont officer is honored for domestic violence work

By Pierrette J. Shields  
Longmont Times-Call

LONGMONT — Officer Randy Lucero of the Longmont Police Department knows firsthand the effort his wife puts into trying to derail domestic violence in the city.

On Wednesday, he recalled his wife getting up early one morning to take a frightened teenager to get new eyeglasses. The girl was afraid she would be attacked because of an ongoing domestic



Lucero

violence situation if she didn't have the security Tori Lucero could offer, even though she was off-duty.

Tori Lucero, who's also a Longmont police officer, is this year's winner of the Beth Haynes Award, given annually to

a law enforcement officer in Boulder County by the law enforcement community for work to address domestic vio-

lence. She is scheduled to accept the award at a ceremony this afternoon.

The award specifically honors the recipient's history of service to victims, knowledge of the dynamics of domestic violence and investigating it, assistance to fellow officers on domestic violence cases, and networking to solve issues with other agencies.

"I was very honored," she said. "I think it is a big honor to be recognized by your peers."

Randy Lucero, who works alongside

his wife on the streets of Longmont, said she has depth of understanding of domestic violence issues that not all officers have.

"Being as call-driven as we are, it is very easy to try to put a Band-Aid on something and then move on to the next crisis," he said. "She tends to do a better job of resolving the heart of the issue."

Boulder County prosecutor Tim Johnson said this year marked Tori Lucero's fourth nomination for the award, and the

Please see **OFFICER** on A8

### OFFICER: Honor

From A1

Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Task Force selected her for the honor this year from 12 nominees, including her husband. Tori Lucero is also on the board of directors for the Safe Shelter of the St. Vrain Valley.

Johnson said Tori Lucero stood out because of her work with teenagers and children on domestic violence issues. She designed a speakers program that visits local schools to teach kids about healthy relationships. She is also a men-

tor for a Safe Shelter group called Teens Ending Relationship Abuse.

Some "kids don't have any idea what a healthy relationship looks like," she said.

During presentations at local middle schools, she said, some of the children believed it was OK to spit on a girlfriend or tear a necklace off someone's neck.

The school presentations are aimed at teaching children and teens appropriate relationship behavior. Kids who ask for help are provided with resources.

Tori Lucero persuaded her husband to help with the presentations, as well. Boys relate better to the messages when it comes from a man, she said.

The Beth Haynes Award is named for a Boulder Police officer who was shot and killed after responding to a domestic violence call on April 16, 1994. She is credited with saving the lives of four people who were the shooter's targets.

The award's history adds to the weight of the honor, Tori Lucero said. Domestic violence calls are among the most dangerous calls police officers handle, she said, because people in a domestic dispute can be unpredictable and volatile.

"We don't exactly know what we're showing up to," she said.

The award ceremony is 2 p.m. today at the Boulder Public Library.