

# Fallen soldier remembered

## Fort Carson honors Lt. Col. Eric Kruger

By The Associated Press  
**FORT CARSON** — An Army brigade deputy commander killed in action in Iraq last month was remembered during a memorial service Wednesday as a driven, sensitive natural leader.

Lt. Col. Eric Kruger, a 40-year-old father of four who died along with two other soldiers when a roadside bomb exploded near a Humvee he was riding in Nov. 2, is the highest-ranking soldier among the 174 from the Mountain Post to have died in Iraq.

It was his first mission as a soldier and recipient of his job, said chaplain Col. James Elmore, in Baghdad.

"It was never about him, he wanted to know about you," Elmore said of Kruger, who arrived at Fort Carson last year to take over as deputy commander of the 2nd Infantry Center Team. "He was outwardly focused."

Lt. Col. Steve Parker said his longtime friend was a voracious reader whose bookshelves were heavy with texts on history and philosophy.

He wanted to get to know his



Kruger, whose family members were in South Korea, wrote in a letter read at the service. Kruger had more than 10 years of military service and was still in college and earned his commission through the ROTC program at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

# Menorah

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"It would be very easy for the IDEA to follow suit," Doug Hutchinson, the lone council member to support inclusion of the menorah in the city display and U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard are said to attend the lighting.

"It is against the policy of the DDA," Senator said.

Chabad Rabbi Yoram Gorenk said the menorah is a symbol of unity that sends a message of inclusivity that the city should be sending out.

Chabad is seeking corporate sponsorships for the lighting and is offering menorahs for sale to Fort Collins businesses that want to display one.

For more information, call Gorenk at the Chabad Jewish Center of Northern Colorado, 407-5611.

# Missing nurse's ex talks

## He provides police with evidence he was in Texas

By The Associated Press  
**DENVER** — A man who fathered the daughter of a missing Air Force nurse met with an investigator in Texas for the first time last week, authorities said.

Edward Valde, 33, said the Rocky Mountain News as he left the office of his San Antonio criminal defense lawyer, Jay S. Norton.

Authorities were seeking information about Denise Decker, 33, who has been seen since leaving her brother's Jefferson County home for a walk Nov. 19. She and her 16-month-old daughter were visiting from Lockland Air Force Base in Texas, where she's stationed.

Valde previously declined to speak to authorities. He met with Beat County (Texas) Sheriff's investigator Al Damiani for roughly 45 minutes and provided investigators with evidence he was in Texas when Decker disappeared, Norton said.

Beat County court records show Valde tried to contest the paternity of the child, September. About two months ago, Valde was ordered by a Texas court to pay medical expenses for the toddler and \$2,000 a month in child support.

# Denver's elections director resigns over many problems

By The Associated Press  
**DENVER** — The Denver Election Commission's executive director resigned Wednesday after a series of problems in last month's election which checked thousands not voting after hours-long waits in line.

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breakdown also heard from commissioners who said information technology at the commission was substandard.

Garbolski said he would continue to work with city and state officials until his resignation takes effect and offer to help the commission after he leaves.

He is the second commission official to resign after the three-month commission term ends to find his replacement.

Valde announced his resignation's effective date, while the commission's technology chief, Anthony Rainey, has been non-committal.

Other problems in the recent election included officials not checking the most balloting weeks after the election, and a miscommunication of postage needed to return absentee ballots. Officials included instructions.

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