

# charged in theft

The preliminary audit, which compared the number of passengers traveling from Denver on the airline to the amount of money deposited, showed discrepancies dating back to April 23, Staskin said.

On June 8, auditors came to Denver to question Gutierrez, who has responsibility for tracking the airlines' mon-

ey questions, Staskin said he wasn't feel- used himself. He nev- called police on June

28, but when they tried to track down Gutierrez they found he had disconnected his phone and cell phone and moved.

Wednesday, Gutierrez contacted police after receiving a letter from Staskin saying he was wanted for questioning. He turned himself in about 10 a.m. Thursday and was arrested about two hours later.

Investigators initially thought Gutierrez had been skimming from the company for only a few months, Staskin said, but his confession said it had been going on much longer.

"He was able to get away with this for a considerable amount of time," Staskin said. "I think the amount of cash we find that Gutierrez took will clearly increase as we continue to investigate."

Gutierrez told investigators he used the cash initially to pay bills and later to help his parents, Staskin said.

# Lawmaker takes oath on outside looking in

By John J. Sanko  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Gary Lindstrom, of Breckenridge, became Colorado's newest state lawmaker Thursday and already can claim a first.

No one could recall a legislator being sworn into office in the way he was — in a cramped hallway outside the actual House chambers, which were cluttered with scaffolding and other work materials being used to install a sprinkler system.

The 62-year-old Summit County commissioner took the oath of office from Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey as friends and fellow legislators watched.

Lawmakers traditionally take the oath in the House chambers — in fact, the Colorado Constitution requires that legislators be sworn into office in the chambers in

which they serve.

House Speaker Lola Spradley, R-Beulah, said that little constitutional mandate created a real problem in this case.

The chief justice and Lindstrom probably could have crawled under the plastic and scaffolding, she said, but no one was too eager to do it that way.

"This was at one time part of the chambers," Spradley explained. "So it is officially a part of the chambers even though it's now the lobby. It (the lobby) was put in after the fact."

Lindstrom was picked by a Democratic vacancy committee to succeed Rep. Carl Miller, D-Leadville, who resigned to serve on the state Public Utilities Commission.

Lindstrom will fill out the remainder of Miller's term this year. He will face Republican Heather Lemon, of Vail, for the House District 56 seat in November if he decides to run.

# Springs man killed in scuffle with police

By Jerry Roys  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

COLORADO SPRINGS — A 19-year-old Colorado Springs man died after being shot by police outside a convenience store early Thursday.

James Larue was shot after struggling with police and gaining control of a Taser gun and turning it on officers, Colorado Springs police spokesman Rafael Cintron said.

Police were called to a disturbance at a 7-Eleven store at 1910 E. Fountain Blvd. about 1:30 a.m., Cintron said. When three officers arrived, they found Larue and two men sitting in a parked car. Larue and the men matched the description of those who were involved in

the disturbance, Cintron said.

When the men got out of the car, Larue began to fight with police. He then reached for a handgun in his waistband, Cintron said.

As Larue drew the gun, one officer grabbed it. While wrestling with the officer for control of the gun, Larue pointed it at another officer, Cintron said.

Officers tried to use a Taser on Larue, but during the struggle, he took the device from police and turned it on them. That's when one of the officers shot him, Cintron said.

Larue was taken to Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs where he died.

Two of the officers sustained minor injuries, and all three were put on administrative leave pending an investigation of the incident.

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