

ST. ALBANS CITY

Citizens tackle bank robber



Travis Merritt, top, of St. Albans, was tackled to the ground and arrested Thursday at the People's United Bank on North Main Street, above, as he allegedly attempted to commit a robbery.

By **ELODIE REED**
 & **MICHELLE MONROE**
 Messenger Staff Writers

ST. ALBANS CITY — Police arrested a man who attempted to rob the People's United Bank on North Main Street Thursday afternoon.

The alleged robber, Travis Merritt, 33, of 56 High St. in St. Albans, was stopped by the bank manager and a security guard. The guard was hired following a robbery Monday at the same location.

Merritt jumped the counter, according to Lt. Ron Hoague of St. Albans Police Department, with the intent of taking money

from the teller's drawer. However, the branch manager and security guard intervened.

Merritt then attempted to flee, said Hoague, but was stopped by the two men. He continued to try to escape, making it outside where a customer assisted in restraining him.

"They ended up wrestling him to the ground and were holding him down when we got there," said Hoague.

Police were alerted as soon as the robbery began and had Merritt in custody within

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RICHFORD

Drug, gun arrests: Local men now face fed'l counts

By **MICHELLE MONROE**
 Messenger Staff Writer

RICHFORD — Two Richford men were arrested on federal charges of gun theft and drug dealing Tuesday.

Larry "Boomer" Garrow, Jr., 26, was arrested on charges of having stolen guns from a federally licensed firearms dealer in Hardwick.

Alberto Torres Morales, 29, was charged with distribution of cocaine and possession of heroin with the intent to distribute.

The charges stem from an investigation into an April 19 burglary at the Rite Way Sports Shop in which 32 firearms were stolen.

According to an affidavit from investigator Wesley Martin, a U.S. Border Patrol

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SWANTON

Natural gas firm planning to buy Swanton parcel

Former garage also on market

By **MICHELLE MONROE**
 Messenger Staff Writer

SWANTON — The Town of