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## **Evans to be sentenced today in tot's slaying**

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS

Democrat Staff Writer

**DOVER** — A former Rochester man convicted of beating his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter to death is scheduled to be sentenced today in Strafford County Superior Court.

Chad Evans, 30, was convicted in December on a charge of second-degree murder and several felony and misdemeanor counts of assault in connection with Kassidy Bortner's death in November 2000. He faces up to life in prison on the second-degree murder conviction.

Evans and Kassidy's mother, 20-year-old Amanda Bortner, lived together at his 191 Milton Road home in Rochester for about three months prior to the toddler's death.

According to testimony during Evans' trial, he repeatedly abused Kassidy by grabbing her face, propelling her into the walls of the home and grabbing and twisting her arms and legs.

Kassidy died as a result of blunt force injury to her head and abdomen.

Maine Chief Medical Examiner Margaret Greenwald testified that based on forensic evidence, the injuries that ultimately caused Kassidy's death were occurred between eight and 18 hours before her death at about 12:30 p.m. on November 9, 2000.

"The injuries that I saw on Kassidy Bortner were consistent with battered child syndrome... The injuries were not typical of childhood injuries," Greenwald testified.

Bortner drove her daughter to the Kittery, Maine, home of her sister, Jennifer Conley, and Conley's boyfriend, F. Jefferey Marshall, early on the morning of November 9, 2000. Bortner left Kassidy with Marshall and went to work at a Kittery mall.

Marshall and Conley testified they had seen bruises on Kassidy prior to that day, but never to such an extreme extent. The pair stated Bortner acknowledged Kassidy's bruised face and implied Evans was responsible prior to leaving for work.

child's death and alleged Bortner also hit Cassidy.

Bortner told police and friends Evans often abused her daughter, but her version of the severity of that abuse changed when she was compelled by the state to testify in Evans' trial.

In a transcript of her interview with police the day her daughter died, Bortner stated "I, like, I saw him hurt her... He would get mad and grab her by the back of the neck and toss her into the... corner. Like, bang her head on the closet door to keep her there."

During the trial, she testified Evans grabbed Cassidy's face with enough force to leave bruises and "pick her up and roughly put her in the corner" but said she was confused when she made her statements to police.

Bortner testified Cassidy's head did strike the closet door, but added "the door is hollow... I didn't think it hurt her."

She also testified she loves Evans and misses him, blaming Marshall for her daughter's fatal injuries.

Bortner has been charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child for allegedly failing to protect Cassidy from Evans' abuse. If she is convicted after her June trial, she could face up to two years in jail in each charge.