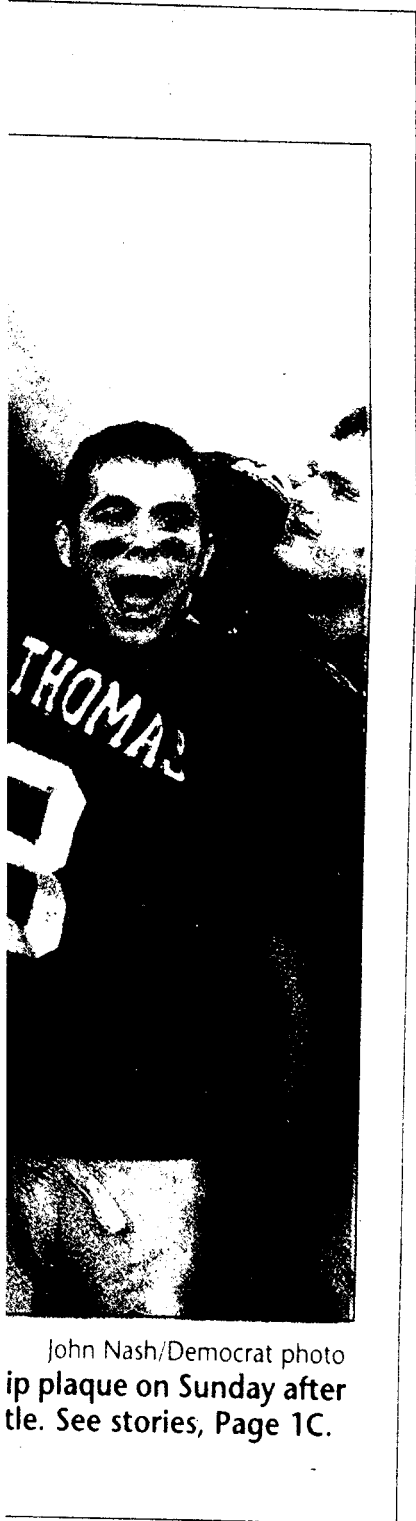


her, a former secretary. He suggested es to Bush and his

against your legal tests before deciding whether to step in. The toughest test for the Texas governor appears

☆ **Battle stalls**

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John Nash/Democrat photo  
ip plaque on Sunday after  
tle. See stories, Page 1C.

# Officials still investigating toddler's death

## Autopsy results withheld pending further analysis

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS  
Democrat Staff Writer

KITTERY, Maine — The state medical examiner's office is continuing to withhold the cause of death for a 21-month-old Rochester, N.H., girl pending further analysis.

Cassidy Bortner, who died under what police have deemed "suspicious" circumstances, was transported from her baby sitter's home in Kittery to York Hospital early Thursday afternoon. She was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.

Maine State Police are continuing their investigation and are releasing few details on the case. Police have stated they are interviewing anyone who had contact with the child to determine the circumstances surrounding her death.

The girl lived with her mother, Amanda Bortner, 18, in Rochester. The mother reportedly brought the girl to the home of a close family friend, Jeff Marshall of Rogers Road in Kittery, while she worked.

Marshall had been taking care of the child at least once each week for several months, neighbors said. Cassidy was

☆ **Toddler's death**

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# er find way home



more than 20 Asian-Pacific leaders in the sultanate of Brunei. It is going ahead despite the current stalemate in the U.S. presidential election. Administration officials say it demonstrates that the nation's business is continuing without interruption.

While at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, Clinton

fied Vietnam by an American president. It comes 25 years after U.S.-backed South Vietnam surrendered to North Vietnam, leaving in doubt the fate of many Americans classified as missing in action.

Clinton is keenly aware of the painful sensitivity of the issue, especially among U.S. veterans of the Vietnam War and among the fami-

and their families," the president said.

Noting that the remains of 283 Americans have been repatriated since he took office in 1993, Clinton said he will visit the site where U.S. and Vietnamese teams are searching for remains of Air Force Capt. Lawrence Evert, missing since his plane was shot down on Nov. 8, 1969.

## Toddler's death

Continued from Page 1

dropped off at Marshall's residence about 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, according to police. He then called police and rescue personnel about 12:30 p.m. when he was unable to wake the child from a nap.

A spokeswoman for the state medical examiner's office in Augusta said an autopsy on the child's body had been completed Friday afternoon, but those results were being withheld pending further study.

Residents in the Rogers Road neighborhood who had met the girl described her as very pretty and affectionate, although sometimes shy.

No arrests have been made at this time. However, Maine State Police are continuing to investigate the circumstances surrounding the child's death. They have been working with Kittery and Rochester police as well as New Hampshire State Police.

"The investigation is ongoing. We are continuing with interviews," Maine State Police Lt. Brian McDonough said this morning. "We'll be examining physical evidence we have removed as part of the investigation."

No one is in custody at this time, McDonough said.

"We really have a lot more work to do to find out what went on here," McDonough said. "We'll see where that leads us."

## Robbery

Continued from Page 1

whether there was more accomplices," Colarusso said late this morning. Part of that evidence includes the actual money stolen in the robbery, he added.

Ahern allegedly entered the bank wearing a ski mask, and brandished what looked to be a small caliber firearm, according to police.

Early in the investigation, police released Ahern's name and photograph to local media saying they wanted to speak with him because they thought he had knowledge of the crime. A

day later he was apprehended in Portsmouth by authorities there who had an outstanding warrant for him in connection to the car robbery.

Prior to his arrest, Ahern was free on bail awaiting presentencing for a May 8 felony conviction of second-degree assault at Rockingham County Superior Court.

The investigation into the robbery was a multi-agency effort that included work by the Dover police's Special Investigations Bureau, the FBI and Portsmouth police.

## Hack job

customers while acting representative of the company.

The charges were brought under a federal computer intrusion law, 18 U.S.C. Section 1030, enacted by Congress in 1986. The probe by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's elite computer intrusion team.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Portsmouth, in cooperation with the FBI and other federal,

## Battle stalls

Continued from Page 1

to be proving that voters would suffer "irreparable harm" if the counts go forward.

After chastising Democrats for threatening a lawsuit over the unresolved presidential election, it was the GOP that sued first.

The gist of the Republican claim is that the hand recounts in only four of Florida's 67 counties amount to unequal treatment for some Florida residents. The 14th Amendment guarantees all Americans equal pro-

threatens Florida's right to run its own elections.

Under Florida law, manual recounts are allowed if a candidate meets a post-election deadline to request them and the local election board agrees.

The Bush camp argues that hand recounts are a sort of third election — after the regular Nov. 7 voting and an automated recount that took place last week.

"Counting these same ballots

Palm Beach counties.

If Bush fails in court, senior strategists say he may seek his own recounts in some GOP-dominated Florida counties. Bush also could demand recounts in close-voting states won by Gore, such as Iowa, Wisconsin, Oregon — or too-close-to-call New Mexico.

A manual recount in heavily Democratic Broward County requested by Gore was to begin Monday and Miami-Dade officials

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