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Bail set for man accused in baby's death

By **KIMBERLY HOUGHTON**
Democrat Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — A local man charged in the beating death of a 21-month-old girl was granted bail Monday in Rochester District Court.



**CHAD
EVANS**

Following a brief hearing, Judge Franklin Jones ordered Chad E. Evans, 29, of 191 Milton Road be held on \$50,000 cash or surety bail on a single count of manslaughter along with an additional

\$50,000-cash or surety bail for two counts of violation of probation. He has not met the bail.

Evans, who until Monday had been held without bail in the Strafford County House of Corrections, was charged with killing his girlfriend's daughter, Kassidy Bortner.

Kassidy died Nov. 9 at York Hospital in York, Maine, after being dropped off at a residence in Kittery, Maine, by her mother, 18-year-old Amanda Bortner. The woman was living with Evans at the time of her daughter's death.

☆ **Bail**

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Fla. Supco may write last chapter in cliffhange

By **TOM RAUM**
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — As one of the closest presidential elections in history hangs the balance, George W. Bush and Al G concentrated on seven "votes" that could decide the outcome — those of the justices of the Florida Supreme Court.

The stakes — both legal and political — were enormous Monday's courtroom showdown.

"All eyes are in Tallahassee," said Bush campaign spokesman Ari Fleischer as lawyers for both candidates mounted what could be their last, best chance to influence the election outcome.

Some political analysts and legal scholars believe the state's high court may be the one to write the final chapter to an extraordinary American political cliffhanger.

The federal judiciary already has shown a disinclination to inject itself into the dispute. An appeals court in Atlanta Friday rejected Bush's request for an immediate end to ballot recounts Gore

High gas

Dances with 1

ling economic performance. Strong economic growth lasting a record 91/2 years has pushed the U.S. unemployment rate down to a 30-year low of 3.9 percent.

Critics of the Clinton administration's trade policy, however, argue that the exploding trade deficit will

time high of \$126.6 billion. Big increases were recorded in imports of computer chips, civilian aircraft, telecommunications equipment, autos and other consumer goods, including clothing and televisions.

U.S. exports, which had set a record in August, slipped a slight 0.7

exceeding the deficit with Japan, \$60.1 billion.

The September deficit with Japan declined by 9.9 percent to \$6.1 billion.

America's deficits with Canada, \$4.7 billion, and Mexico, \$2.7 billion, were both records.

Bail

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During Monday's hearing, Assistant Attorney General Christopher Carter claimed that Evans violated his probation twice. The first violation occurred Nov. 10 when police found live rounds of ammunition in his home and the second violation took place when Evans was arrested on the manslaughter charge Nov. 16.

Evans was sentenced to one year of probation earlier this year for two counts of simple assault involving his ex-wife. He pleaded guilty to the assault charges in March.

If Evans is able to meet the \$100,000 cash or surety bail, he has been ordered to stay away from Cassidy's family or any other witnesses connected with the case, according to court documents.

Carter said it is imperative that Evans have no contact with the witnesses, maintaining that he could "intimidate" them and possibly influence their testimony.

Police allege the child's death was the direct result of a head injury as a result of abuse inflicted by Evans. Details on how Cassidy was injured are being withheld by authorities to ensure that Evans receives a fair trial.

Evans is to return to Rochester District Court on Dec. 4 for a probable cause hearing on the

manslaughter charge. The hearing was originally scheduled for Wednesday, but was continued at the request of legal counsel, according to a court clerk.

Meanwhile, a joint investigation will continue. The investigation involves the efforts of the New Hampshire attorney general's office, New Hampshire and Maine state police, Rochester police and Kittery, Maine, police.

Although Evans is now behind bars, just four years ago he was deemed a hero for saving three area residents from a burning vehicle.

A different side of Evans was brought to light Nov. 1, 1996, when he risked his own life to help the victims of a serious car accident on Route 125 in front of his home.

Evans apparently heard the crash from his residence about 11 p.m. and quickly noticed an orange glow around his windows after the accident sparked a large automobile fire, according to newspaper reports.

At the time, Evans said he could see people moving inside the two vehicles, so he ran out to help the victims.

Upon investigation, police found that a Mazda RX-7 in the northbound lane was rounding a corner near the

Rochester Motel when it slid sideways into the southbound lane and collided with a Buick LeSabre.

The two passengers of the LeSabre were able to get out of the car without help, but according to Evans, the passengers of the RX-7 were unable to escape the fire on their own.

Reports state that Evans grabbed one of the passengers of the RX-7, who was unconscious and lying on the ground next to the car. Evans then dragged the man, whose leg was on fire, across the street where a neighbor extinguished the flames.

Evans then returned to the vehicle to get the remaining two people out of the burning car. He dragged the driver of the vehicle, who was incoherent, out of the driver's seat through the passenger's door and moved him to a safe distance, according to reports.

The last passenger was trapped in the back of the car, and Evans said at the time that he could only get him out by pulling on his leg and tugging until he was able to free the occupant.

Evans was commended for saving the lives of Peter J. Rodgers, 21, of Dover; Christian A. Pare, 21, of Milton; and Mitchell E. Hartford, 21, of Sanbornville.

Internet

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firewalls so high school Internet users cannot get onto inappropriate Web sites. Students are monitored by a faculty member while using computers at the school.

SAU 56 Business Administrator Duane Ford said it would be quite

ware; \$700 to purchase additional software; \$2,200 a year to obtain a filtering license.

"Either way, you're talking about quite a bit of money," Ford said. "It's a board decision. If the board decides this is what they want to do,

an Acceptable Internet Use Procedures policy at the beginning of the school year. Each student needs to be ethical and courteous, according to the policy. Also, the policy clearly states that students cannot send hate, harassing or obscene mail, dis-