

to 5 years

held at
c unit

charged for out-patient community based treatment within the next 12 months."

In addition, the court has ordered that the Disabilities Rights Center Inc. serve as guardian ad litem for Ragas, monitoring the course of her admission and corresponding with the courts about her progression.

The guardian ad litem is expected to assist Ragas and ensure that her concerns are effectively presented and heard, the court order states. The Disabilities Rights Center Inc. has also been ordered to submit a written report on Ragas' status by April.

Another arson charge against Ragas,

☆ Ragas

Please turn to Page 48

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Goodwin/Democrat photo

secure after a fire at the Berwick United Methodist
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s Plante said. "But
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Fire and Rescue
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s coming out of the

said.

There was no major damage to the inside, just the interior walls, according to Plante.

"They'll have to replace those boards inside, but the rest of the inside is fine," Plante said.

It will need to be fixed, according to Plante, but the building is functioning.

South Berwick and Somersworth, N.H., firefighters were called for

Hearing delayed in toddler death case

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS
Democrat Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — A probable cause hearing for a local man accused in the beating death of his girlfriend's daughter has been rescheduled for Jan. 8.



CHAD EVANS

Chad E. Evans, 29, of 191 Milton Road was charged Nov. 16 with manslaughter in connection with the death of 21-month-old Cassidy Bortner. To date, his probable cause hearing in Rochester District Court has been rescheduled twice.

Evans faces one charge of manslaughter. However, a Strafford County grand jury could come back with additional or increased charges once it meets this month.

Although the Maine Chief Medical Examiner's Office has not released its official report, police allege that Cassidy's death Nov. 9 at York Hospital in York, Maine, was the direct result of abuse inflicted at the hands of Evans. New Hampshire Assistant Attorney General Christopher Carter said last month that preliminary autopsy results indicate the toddler died from blunt force injury to her head.

According to police, Cassidy's aunt, Jennifer Conley, and her live-in boyfriend, F. Jeffrey Marshall, periodically took care of the toddler at their Kittery home while Cassidy's mother worked. Marshall said Amanda Bortner, 18, dropped her daughter off at his Rogers Road home around 8:30 a.m. Nov. 9.

Marshall called Kittery police seeking emergency medical services for Cassidy about 12:40 p.m., after what authorities describe as a "dramatic decline" in her health. She was pronounced dead at York Hospital about 1:30 p.m.

According to Carter, the charge against Evans is the result of "an intensive, coordinated investigation" by Maine and New Hampshire law enforcement authorities including Kittery, Rochester and state police. He said the decision to bring charges in New Hampshire is based on evidence related to the cause, nature and timing of the child's fatal injuries.

Carter confirmed late Tuesday afternoon that the probable cause hearing for Evans had been rescheduled for Jan. 8 at 10:30 a.m. in Rochester District Court. Beyond that, however, he would not comment on the case. Previously, Carter said because the investigation is ongoing, few specific details can be released.

Bortner has not been charged with any crime in connection with her daughter's death. Bortner lived with Evans in the Milton Road

☆ Cassidy

cat'd 4B

Farmington planners approve new Chinese restaurant

By DAVE PEARSON
Democrat Staff Writer

FARMINGTON — The Planning Board approved a plan for a new Chinese restaurant to open downtown at 9 North Main St. at its meeting Tuesday.

Owner Sheng D. Zheng of Alton Bay intends to open the yet-to-be-named restaurant before the new year. It will have a 48-seat dining

room and will offer takeout as well. The restaurant is handicapped accessible.

But, diners will have to go the takeout route if they want to enjoy an alcoholic beverage with their dinner because Zheng has not applied for a liquor license. However, diners will be able to stop in any day of the week as it will be open Sunday through Saturday.

Because Zheng is from China and

is still learning English, his landlord Paul Izzo spoke for him.

Zheng is finishing up interior remodeling now and has addressed concerns the Planning Board had with the restaurant such as parking and rubbish removal, Izzo said.

"I think it's 85 percent finished down there," Izzo said.

Zheng has been working 15-hour days to get the restaurant ready for business.

Izzo said Zheng may start delivery as the business develops and if it looks like demand will support it.

"It looks pretty good," said Bill Tsiros, the selectmen's representative on the Planning Board.

The restaurant will have six employees, four full-time and two part-time, Izzo said.

Although, Izzo is Zheng's landlord, he also runs Ristorante LaContadina nextdoor.

Kassidy

Continued from Page 1B

residence at the time he allegedly beat Kassidy to death. Police will not say, however, if Bortner was present Nov. 8 and 9, the dates Evans allegedly inflicted the fatal injuries on her child, or whether they expect charges to be filed against her.

It has been a little more than a month since Kassidy's death, and police in both states continue their

investigation.

"We are working to piece together the details of Kassidy Bortner's life in the days, weeks and months leading up to her death," Carter said following Evans' arrest. "We are seeking some measure of justice in this utterly senseless act."

Following his arraignment on the manslaughter charge in November, Evans spent less than a week at

Stafford County House of Corrections before his \$100,000 bail was posted through Denis Bail Bonds of Raymond. The individual or entity that posted Evans' bail requested anonymity of the bond company.

In addition to the manslaughter charge, Evans must return to court in January on charges he violated his probation on a simple assault conviction against his former wife,

Tristan Evans. Evans' probation conditions included not possessing firearms and not being arrested on any other charges.

Although the autopsy on Kassidy's body was completed Nov. 10, the Maine Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Augusta is continuing to withhold the results pending further analysis.

Trunk trial

Continued from Page 1B

then heard some rustling around in the trunk.

"At that point, I stepped back and out jumps Olin," she said. "I was surprised anyone was jumping out of the trunk."

The victim said Williams came at her with what she thought was a stun gun and hit her in the side of the face with the object. She

"I worked on the lock of the trunk, and after pulling on a wire, it opened up," she said.

The victim said when Williams noticed that she was close to escaping, he pulled over on Lebanon Road, took her out of the trunk and continuously smashed her head on the pavement.

"Get back in the trunk or I'll kill

could tell that the woman was battered and beaten.

"He proceeded to pick her up and put her in the trunk or stuff her in the trunk," said the motorist. "I screamed at that point — 'Stop it, stop it.' I was visibly upset at that point."

Williams turned his attention to the motorist, which enabled the

high rates of speed, drove in the breakdown lanes at times and cut across lanes of traffic, Parker said.

Berwick, Wells, Sanford, North Berwick and state police were all involved in the pursuit in southern Maine. State Trooper David Alexander testified that he spotted the Cavalier pulling into a driveway on Kimberly Circle. When he