

# Murder indictment

## Evans accused of inflicting multiple blows to girl's head and abdomen



CHAD E.  
EVANS

KASSIDY  
BORTNER

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS  
Democrat Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — A local man who was facing a manslaughter charge for allegedly beating a 21-month-old girl to death has been indicted on a charge of murder.

On Thursday, a Strafford County Grand Jury returned an indictment of second-degree murder against Chad E. Evans, 29, of 191 Milton Road in Rochester alleging he caused the Nov. 9 death of his girlfriend's child,

Kassidy Bortner.

New Hampshire Senior Assistant Attorney General Christopher H. M. Carter confirmed the indictment after Foster's was told of the increased charges Friday afternoon.

"The murder indictment returned on Dec. 14, 2000 by the Strafford, New Hampshire, County Grand Jury, charges Evans with recklessly causing Kassidy Bortner's death by inflicting multiple blows to the toddler's head and abdomen," Carter said Friday afternoon.

The indictment also charges Evans with

several counts of assault, Carter said, "that are for injuries and abuse inflicted on Kassidy in the months before her death. He is also charged with endangering the life of a child and with the simple assault of Kassidy's mother, Amanda Bortner."

Bortner, 18, resided with Evans at the Milton Road residence in the months leading up to Kassidy's death.

When asked whether charges might be brought against Bortner, Carter said it would be inappropriate to comment at this time.

"At this point, the state has not charged anyone else in conjunction with Kassidy's death or the injuries she sustained in the months before she died," Carter said.

According to relatives, it was Bortner who brought Kassidy from Rochester to the Kittery residence of Jennifer Conley and Jeffrey Marshall at about 8:30 a.m. on

☆ **Murder**

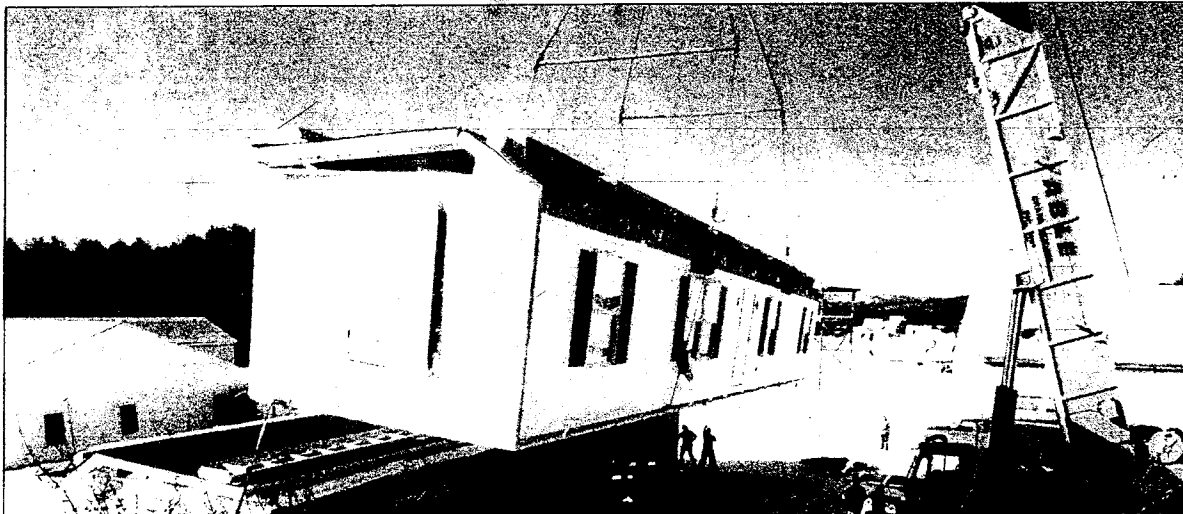
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## Guilty verdict in attempted murder

### Victim: 'I just stayed cool'

By ANDREW MORSE  
Somersworth Bureau Chief

## Some assembly required



# Bush picks Powell

## To name Gulf War hero secretary of state

By TOM RAUM

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ual offender may petition to get their driver's license back, according to Finley.

"These are just people that keep on driving when they are told not to," he said. "And, they usually go to jail for it."

A habitual offender charge is a felony and carries a possible jail sentence of one year, he said.

Finley said the habitual offender law is a good way for police departments to enforce drivers who are

not abiding by their suspension. Most individuals, he said, stay clear of the roads after being suspended. However, Finley acknowledged, the people who decide to continue driving usually get caught — such as the case with Gamester.

State police are still investigating Thursday evening's accident, which caused one death and injured three people.

Michael P. Weeks, 16, of Sanbornville was taken to Huggins Hos-

pital with non life-threatening injuries following the crash. Weeks was driving the Honda that was initially hit by Gamester's vehicle.

A passenger in Weeks' car, Ryan Gould, 17, of East Wakefield was also injured and taken to Frisbie Memorial Hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

Because Weeks and Gould are juveniles, their conditions were not available from area hospitals.

The Spaulding Turnpike was

closed for several hours while investigators were on the scene Thursday evening. Anyone with information about the crash should call Trooper William Graham at 679-3333.

Graham was unavailable for comment today on the latest developments in the case. However, state police said Friday that Gamester was arraigned at Frisbie Memorial Hospital on Friday afternoon. Bail conditions were not available.

## Murder

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November 9. Conley was the child's aunt.

Officials have said the injuries that caused Cassidy's death were inflicted sometime between Nov. 8 and Nov. 9. At about 12:41 p.m. on Nov. 9, Marshall called Kittery police requesting emergency services for Cassidy. Cassidy was reportedly put down for a nap shortly after her arrival and Marshall called police when he found her to be unresponsive sev-

eral hours later.

Kassidy was transported to York Hospital by ambulance, where she was pronounced dead shortly after 1 p.m.

"This case has been the subject of an intensive, coordinated investigation by Maine and New Hampshire law enforcement authorities," New Hampshire Attorney General Philip T. McLaughlin said in a statement released Friday. "The decision to bring charges in New Hampshire is based on evidence obtained during the investigation regarding the cause, nature and timing of Cassidy's injuries."

Although Bortner lived with Evans at the time he allegedly abused Cassidy, relatives say she is now residing somewhere in Texas — a statement authorities

will neither confirm nor deny.

Following the official release of the grand jury indictments early next week, an arraignment and bail hearing for Evans will be scheduled through Strafford County Superior Court.

Evans had been charged in Rochester District Court with manslaughter on Nov. 16 following the first week of a joint investigation by Maine and New Hampshire state police, Kittery and Rochester police and the New Hampshire attorney general's office. Evans spent less than a week behind bars at the Strafford County House of Corrections on the manslaughter charge before his \$100,000 bail was posted anonymously at Rochester District Court.

In a press release issued Friday by McLaughlin with New Hampshire State Police Colonel Gary Sloper, Maine State Police Colonel Michael R. Sperry, Kittery Police Chief Edward Strong and Rochester Police Chief Daniel Auger, the cause of Cassidy's death is listed as traumatic injury to the head. Although the finding is based on an autopsy performed by the Maine Chief Medical Examiner's office, a spokeswoman for the office said late Friday that the official results of the autopsy are still pending and are not expected to be released for several weeks.

An indictment is not an indication of guilt. Rather, it means a grand jury has decided there is sufficient evidence in a case to move forward to a trial.

### CORRECTION:



The Nicole's Hallmark ad that ran on Thursday 12/14/00 should have read:

**Free gift with \$50 purchase while supplies last.**

## Newmarket to hold house decorating contest on Dec. 20

NEWMARKET — The Newmarket Business Association will per-

Dec. 20, beginning at 6 p.m.

Categories are as follows: Best

front yard — first, second, third place; best outdoor Christmas lights