

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2001

## Evans trial starts today

DOVER — The trial of a former Keene man accused of killing his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter is expected to focus on the mother's testimony.

Chad Evans, 30, who lived in Rochester when Kassidy Bortner died Nov. 9, 2000, faces second-degree murder and assault charges. Police say the child was beaten, choked and thrown against walls repeatedly for at least three months before she died.

Her mother, Amanda Bortner, 20, of Rochester, was charged last month with child endangerment. Prosecutors say she knew about the abuse but did not try to stop it.

The trial was to start today.

Prosecutors charged Bortner after they were unable to persuade her to testify against Evans, a former member of the Keene Board of Education.