

# Foster's Daily Democrat

50¢ Single Copy  
Newsstand

The Region's Largest Newspaper

Pages 44  
Today

Geo. J. Foster & Co., Inc., Publishers

DOVER, N.H., FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 7, 2001

129th Year — No. 148

## Sitter remorseful

*'I've got to live with it and it's the worst thing I've ever done.'*

— F. JEFFEREY MARSHALL  
Kassidy's baby sitter on his failure to report abuse

Kassidy's grandmother barred from the courtroom, asked her daughter to tell the truth

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS  
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — As Amanda Bortner prepared to testify in her boyfriend's murder trial, her mother asked her to tell the truth — and moments later found herself barred from the courtroom.

Bortner, 19, of Endicott Road in Weirs Beach, spent hours Wednesday and Thursday testifying about her boyfriend's treatment of her daughter Kassidy in the months before the toddler

died on Nov. 9, 2000.

Kassidy died at 21 months old after what authorities have described as weeks of abuse. In medical photographs taken after her death, the toddler's face and head, torso, arms, back, legs and feet show indications of prolonged abuse.

Bortner's boyfriend, Chad E. Evans, 30, of Milton Road in Rochester, faces a charge of sec-

☆ **Grandmother**

Please turn to Page 2



Craig Osborne/ Staff photographer  
JEFFEREY MARSHALL of Kittery shows the jury where he has observed bruises on 21-month-old Kassidy Bortner during the Chad Evans murder trial in Strafford County Superior Court on Thursday.

Defense laying blame on baby sitter for Kassidy's death

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS  
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — The name of the game was finger-pointing and laying blame as testimony continued Thursday in the murder trial of the man accused of killing Kassidy Bortner.

The defense team for Chad E. Evans alleges it was Kassidy's baby-sitter, F. Jefferey Marshall, who inflicted the abuse that ultimately killed Kassidy. The prosecution maintains Evans, who is still romantically involved with Kassidy's mother, is to blame.

By the end of the third day of

testimony, the only facts both sides seemed to agree on are that 21-month-old Kassidy was beaten to death and that no one sought medical attention for her until it was too late.

When it was his turn to take the stand, Marshall told the jury he is guilty of failing to seek help for Kassidy after seeing her many bruises and watching her steadily decline from a happy, outgoing toddler to one who was slow, quiet and withdrawn.

"Looking back, there's no excuse. But it was Jen's sister

☆ **Baby sitter**

Please turn to Page 2

Hunter finds huge leak

RELIVING DAY OF INFAMY

Joy in the

# Kassidy's grandmother barred from the courtroom, asked her daughter to tell the truth

By **JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS**  
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — As Amanda Bortner prepared to testify in her boyfriend's murder trial, her mother asked her to tell the truth — and moments later found herself barred from the courtroom.

Bortner, 19, of Endicott Road in Weirs Beach, spent hours Wednesday and Thursday testifying about her boyfriend's treatment of her daughter Kassidy in the months before the toddler

died on Nov. 9, 2000.

Kassidy died at 21 months old after what authorities have described as weeks of abuse. In medical photographs taken after her death, the toddler's face and head, torso, arms, back, legs and feet show indications of prolonged abuse.

Bortner's boyfriend, Chad E. Evans, 30, of Milton Road in Rochester, faces a charge of sec-

☆ **Grandmother**

Please turn to Page 2

## MORE ABOUT

# Grandmother

Continued from Page 1

second-degree murder and eight felony counts of assault in connection with the child's death.

Prior to the start of today's court proceedings, Bortner entered the courthouse with Evans' family.

"I asked Amanda to tell the truth. To tell Cassidy's truth," Jacqueline Conley told Foster's Daily Democrat on Thursday.

Conley said she was not given a reason for being barred from the courtroom and doesn't know why the decision was made, but said it happened Wednesday after she asked her daughter to tell the truth.

"I know it was Chad," Conley said, denying the defense's position that F. Jefferey Marshall, who periodically baby-sat for Cassidy, beat the child to death.

Marshall and Conley's daughter Jennifer have been living together for about two years, Conley said.

Conley said Cassidy called Marshall "Uncle Jeffy" and had no fear of him.

"You know when a child is afraid of someone, they won't go near them," Conley said. Although she only met Evans twice prior to Cassidy's death, Conley said she remembered the toddler being very quiet when he was present.

Kassidy lived with Conley, her husband and her two sons up until Bortner moved in with Evans in 2000. Conley said Cassidy lived with the family almost all the time, while Bortner spent many months away while Cassidy was an infant and returned when the child was about 10 months old.

Conley said she hopes Bortner will tell the truth about what happened to Cassidy, but said she has her concerns.

"Her whole being is different. When someone is normal, there's a light in their eyes. That's not there," she said of seeing her daughter for the first time in months when she arrived at Strafford County Superior Court this week.

Bortner has been charged

with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child for allegedly refusing to seek medical treatment for Cassidy's injuries and failing to protect her from the abuse she suffered prior to her death.

On the witness stand Wednesday and again on Thursday, Bortner admitted Evans violated his bail conditions by living with her in the Keene and Brattleboro, Vt., area.

"I was pretty much begging him to sleep over," Bortner said, adding if the subject of the pending case came up, "he always told me to tell the truth."

Earlier in the day, Conley said Bortner would call her during the months she was living with Evans and refuse to give her a phone number or address.

"She would call to ask me about Jeff and Jen ... I wouldn't tell her anything. I knew they — Chad and Mandy — were up to something," Conley said.

Later, in the courtroom, Bortner testified she wanted to be with Evans because he gave her support that she didn't get from her family.

"My mother remarried. My stepfather molested me when I was younger and I didn't want to be there," she told defense attorney Alan Cronheim on Thursday.

Prior to Bortner's testimony, her mother sat outside holding a doll that was Cassidy's and a photograph album filled with the child's pictures.

"She lies," she said softly, shaking her head when asked to describe Bortner.

Conley looked down at a photograph in the album. It showed Cassidy as an infant, smiling broadly into the camera.

"I think she (Bortner) knew something ... I pray to God she wasn't part of it. She's my daughter," Conley said.

*Democrat Staff Writer Jennifer Saunders can be reached at 1-207-363-4413 or [jsaunders@fosters.com](mailto:jsaunders@fosters.com)*

## Kingston horse infected with West Nile virus has recovered

CONCORD (AP) — A horse in Kingston was infected with West Nile Virus last month, but has recovered, state Veterinarian Clifford McGinnis said Friday. It was the first New Hampshire discovery of the virus outside dead birds or mosquito pools.

McGinnis said the virus is transmitted from mosquitos to horses, and cannot spread from horses to other horses or people.

The 12-year-old thoroughbred gelding began showing signs of illness on Thanksgiving — staggering, and falling down — and was taken to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University the next day for treatment.

"He has recovered," McGinnis said. "He will be going home very soon."

McGinnis said officials were not surprised a horse contracted the virus, but were surprised it came so late in the season.