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the chairman of the fuel prices committee, reported that a typical con-

☆ **Heating oil**
 Please turn to Page 2

Autopsy results on little girl might be out in a few weeks

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS
Democrat Staff Writer

YORK, Maine — After initially saying it may take up to three months to release the autopsy results for a 21-month-old girl who was allegedly beaten, the medical examiner's office said Wednesday it may only be several weeks.

No official cause of death has been released for Cassidy Bortner of Rochester, N.H. Authorities have charged 29-year-old Chad E. Evans of 191 Milton Road in Rochester with manslaughter in connection with the beating death of the toddler.

At the time the fatal injury or injuries were inflicted, police said, the child and her mother, 18-year-old Amanda Bortner, were residing with Evans. Cassidy died Nov. 9 at York Hospital. A probable cause hearing originally scheduled for Nov. 22 was postponed to Monday.

☆ **Autopsy results**
 Please turn to Page 8



KASSIDY BORTNER



Painters at the Button Factory

See Showcase inside today

UNH men lose to Stony Brook



Lindsey Jacques of Rochester performs at Portsmouth Music Hall on Wednesday. The performance is to be filmed today by the B...

Burned building to be razed

Was site of arson

By KIMBERLY HOUGHTON
Democrat Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — The Summer home that officials believe was initially set on fire nearly a year ago and torn down, yet the arson case unsolved and still under investigation.

The building at 19 Summer Street, an emotional memories for the many rescuers who rescued a family of four two young children, from the burning during the early morning hours.

But soon the home will no longer stand, and questions are raised about who is responsible for the fire.

"There are still a lot of memories late in the game," Assistant Fire Chief Norman Sanborn said of the firefighters drive by the home.

Exeter Home expand c

Charleston, WV	40 29 c	37 22 pc	Louisville	46 29 sh	37 24 pc	Salt Lake City	49 30 pc	48 29 pc
Charlotte	52 34 s	51 26 pc	Memphis	59 34 sh	43 30 sn	San Antonio	69 50 pc	53 37 c
Cincinnati	43 25 sh	37 24 pc	Minneapolis	28 18 sf	30 21 s	San Francisco	52 49 pc	58 50 c
Cleveland	36 26 sn	32 22 pc	Nashville	54 31 pc	39 24 sn	Seattle	51 43 sh	48 42 c
Dallas	59 41 s	47 32 pc	Oklahoma City	27 23 s	33 23 s	Tampa	73 49 s	70 48 pc
Detroit	36 24 sf	36 23 pc	Omaha	32 20 c	35 25 s	Washington, DC	44 30 pc	40 28 pc
Fairbanks	-5 -20 sf	-5 -18 sn						

Springfield	36 17 pc	33 14 pc
Storrs	38 20 pc	34 17 pc
Torrington	37 19 pc	33 16 pc
Waterbury	37 21 pc	35 18 pc

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

Yesterday's National High/Low: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 87 at McAllen, TX Low: -15 at West Yellowstone, MT

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-party cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

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*Excludes Coos County.

Autopsy results

Continued from Page 1

Although the autopsy was completed Nov. 10, the Maine state medical examiner has not released an official cause of death or any details regarding the autopsy.

The New Hampshire attorney general's office based its charge against Evans on a police investiga-

tion that included both states and on the preliminary autopsy results. The toddler died from blunt force injury to her head, according to those results.

"She was extremely young and she was defenseless," New Hampshire Assistant Attorney General

Christopher Carter said at a press conference earlier this month. "It defies any reason."

The investigation is continuing, and based on that fact and the effort to ensure Evans has a fair trial, few specific details about the case could be released, Carter said.

In the almost two weeks since Evans was charged, no details have

been released about the case or whether additional charges will be filed. No charges have been filed against Kassidy's mother.

Bortner brought the child from Rochester to Kittery, Maine, before going to work Nov. 9, according to friends. She dropped Kassidy off at the home of Jennifer Conley and F. Jeffrey Marshall. Conley was Kassidy's aunt.

Conley and Marshall periodically took care of the child at their Kittery home while her mother

worked, according to police.

In a release issued at the time of Evans' arrest, Carter said Kassidy was brought to the Kittery residence on the morning of Nov. 9, and Marshall called police that afternoon when the girl's health took a "dramatic decline." She was pronounced dead at York Hospital at about 1:30 p.m.

Evans spent less than a week behind bars at the Strafford County House of Corrections before his \$100,000 bail was posted anonymous-

ly at Rochester District Court.

In addition to the probable cause hearing, Evans is scheduled to return to court in January for a trial on a charge he violated his probation by possessing live rounds of ammunition at his Milton Road home and because he has been charged with a felony. Evans has been serving a year of probation since March for assaulting his ex-wife, Tristan Evans, who is listed among the state's witnesses in the manslaughter case.

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- * '93 Chevy Blazer
4x4, Auto, V6 \$3500
- * '91 Ford Explorer
4x4, All Opt., Auto \$3900
- * '93 Chevy Blazer
4x4, 4 Dr., Auto, P.W. \$4500
- * '91 Olds Bravada 4x4

Trucks with ballots

Continued from Page 1

While Gore conducted a one-man media blitz Wednesday, going from interview to interview to buy time with the public for his court challenge, Cheney announced that he and retired Gen. Colin Powell would visit Bush at his ranch in Texas on Thursday. That immediately stoked speculation that Powell would become secretary of state in a Bush administration. Powell has told associates that if

offered the post he would accept, although Cheney said no announcement was imminent.

Still, the election was in the courts, with unforeseen consequences.

A convoy left West Palm Beach Thursday morning bound for Tallahassee with about 462,000 ballots that a Florida judge ordered made available in case he decides to order a recount after a Saturday hearing. A

separate convoy is to leave from Miami on Friday.

Circuit Judge N. Saunders Sauls on Wednesday ordered the 1 million ballots crated up and shipped 400 miles to the state capital; the Gore-legal team has vowed an appeal to the state Supreme Court to force an immediate manual recount; and the Florida Legislature edged closer to naming its own slate of electors, as provided for in the U.S. Constitution.

Gore's lawyers, mindful of a time squeeze, filed a state Supreme Court appeal Thursday morning seeking to bypass Sauls and win an immediate recount while other issues in their election challenge are decided.

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