

# Former Keene man gets 28 years to life in murder

By J.M. HIRSCH  
Associated Press

DOVER — Chad Evans, a former Keene resident who served a short stint on the Keene Board of Education, was sentenced Tuesday to 28 years to life in prison for the beating death of his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter.

Evans, 30, was convicted in December of second-degree murder in the death of Cassidy Bortner, who died Nov. 9, 2000, at a baby sitter's home. He also was convicted of six lesser assault charges and child endangerment. Evans and the girl's mother had been living in Rochester at the time of the toddler's death.

On Tuesday, Evans fought tears as he apologized for "letting down Cassidy," but he did not admit killing her.

"It pains me more than anything I can express in words that I let so many people down, especially Cassidy," he said. "There's not been a minute since fall 2000 that I have felt anything but shame and regret for the things that have happened."

He later turned around to face Cassidy's mother, Amanda Bortner.

"Amanda, I am so sorry for the emptiness and hurt

you are going to feel for the rest of your life," he said. "You and Cassidy deserved a lot more. I'm really sorry."

Bortner will be tried in June on child endangerment charges. She reluctantly testified against Evans under limited immunity.

Bortner's turn to speak at

the hearing came after several of her relatives described how much they had loved Cassidy and what a void her death has left in their lives.

"I find it really strange that everyone cares so much

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Amanda Bortner looks around the courtroom Tuesday during the sentencing of her boyfriend, Chad Evans, right, who was convicted of second-degree murder in the beating death of Bortner's 18-month-old daughter, Cassidy Bortner.