

Fost

50¢ Single Copy
Newsstand

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

Bortner goes on trial today

Charged with endangerment

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS
Democrat Staff Writer

DOVER — Jury selection began today in Strafford County Superior Court in the trial of a 20-year-old Rochester woman who allegedly endangered her child's safety in the weeks before the toddler's death.

Amanda Bortner faces two misdemeanor counts of endangering the welfare of a child for allegedly failing to protect her 21-month-old daughter, Cassidy, from her boyfriend's abuse.

Bortner and her boyfriend, 31-year-old Chad E. Evans, lived



AMANDA BORTNER

★ **Bortner**

Please turn to Page 2

Bortner

we were never able to get at Pin Prick info
Continued from Page 1

together at his residence at 191 Milton Road in Rochester for about three months before Cassidy's death on Nov. 9, 2000.

Evans was convicted of second-degree murder and multiple counts of assault in December. He is serving a sentence of 28 years to life in state prison.

Kassidy died from blunt-force trauma to the head and abdomen. At the time of her death, there were bruises visible on her face and body as well as pin-prick marks on the bottoms of her feet.

The charges against Bortner allege she violated her duty of care to Cassidy in the weeks before the child's death and, specifically, on the day the toddler died.

In the hours before Cassidy died of her injuries, Bortner drove her from their Rochester home to her sister's apartment in Kittery, Maine, and went to work, according to court documents.

Several hours after Bortner left, her sister's boyfriend

called police and reported that Cassidy was unresponsive. The toddler was pronounced dead at York Hospital in York, Maine, that afternoon.

Bortner was charged with the two misdemeanor counts of endangering the welfare of a child shortly before Evans' trial began in November 2001. She intended to enter a plea to the charges in June, but changed her mind during the plea-and-sentencing hearing and requested a trial. *Why?? Together with...*

David Ruoff, a prosecutor with the attorney general's office, said last week that he expects the trial to last about five days. The state's witness list includes 17 people who may be called to testify against Bortner, he said.

The attorney general's office is prosecuting the case because of its connection to the murder investigation and trial, Ruoff said last week.

If Bortner is convicted on the two child endangerment charges, she faces a maximum jail term of two years.

Information Center

Information Center with Paul LeBlanc, for the early morning and on the overnight news from throughout the region.