

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Two men remain in jail, and another is hospitalized in Kearney, after an alleged assault in Imperial last Thursday night, July 16.

Police Chief Larry Browning said arraignments were scheduled on Wednesday this week for Armando Mejia, 17, and Jesus Casarez, aka Jesus Javier Rodriguez-Casarez, 36, who have been in the Chase County jail since last week. Both men were arrested for felony assault, Browning said.

Meanwhile, the victim, Baldemar Sanchez, 33, remains hospitalized at Good Samaritan in Kearney, where he was air-lifted later Thursday evening.

Chief Browning said, as of Saturday, Sanchez remained in critical condition, is in a coma and on a breathing apparatus.

No update on Sanchez's condition was available this week.

Police were first notified of a fight underway in Winters Trailer Court at 8:30 p.m. last Thursday. Officer Ryan Wisnieski was first on the scene, where he found Sanchez lying unconscious outside of one of the trailer homes.

Seeing he was suffering from head trauma, Wisnieski called the dispatcher to summon an ambulance, which then transported Sanchez to Chase County Community Hospital.

A fairly large, unsettled crowd had gathered in the area, Browning said, and eventually all four of Imperial's police officers were on the scene.

Once some of the crowd was dispersed, they began gathering testimony and officers learned Sanchez was allegedly assaulted with an aluminum baseball bat, Browning said.

Mejia was placed under arrest about 10 p.m., and, after further investigation and statements from witnesses, Casarez was then arrested about 2:50 a.m. Friday.

Due to the seriousness of Sanchez' injuries, Browning said the police called in the Nebraska State Patrol to aid in the investigation.

Each of the men in jail were being held on \$100,000 bonds.

Browning said Sanchez had lived in Imperial 10 to 12 years ago, and had moved back to the community.