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Gun, beating charges for Amherst man

By SCOTT MERZBACH
Staff Writer

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AMHERST - Police say an Amherst man tried to run a 23-year-old Springfield man over with his car at a Belchertown Road home and then threatened him with a gun and beat him up with his fists and feet.

Amherst Police arrested Jyming Chea, 27, of 266 E. Hadley Road, Unit 97C, after the incident Thursday afternoon.

At his arraignment Friday, Chea pleaded innocent to four charges: two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon - a motor vehicle and a shod foot - and single counts of assault and battery and assault with a dangerous weapon, a handgun, according to Assistant District Attorney Michael A. Cahillane.

According to police, he is being held without the right to bail at Hampshire County Jail.

Police Detective Gabe Ting said Chea apparently went to the man's home to confront him because he was upset the man was dating the mother of Chea's child and growing closer to his daughter.

"He went to the victim's residence, found him and tried to run him over with car," Ting said.

He said that after hitting the man with the car and knocking him to the ground, Chea jumped out of the moving vehicle and produced a handgun. The man ran into the woods, pursued by Chea, who punched the man in the face several times, and kicked him in the stomach while he was on the ground. The car crashed in the wooded area.

The victim was transported by Amherst Fire Department ambulance to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, where he was treated for cuts and abrasions to his face and bruising to his ribs, and was later released, Ting said.

His name was not available at press time.

Witnesses to the incident reported Chea fired a semi-automatic gun, but Ting said police are still investigating whether that happened because no one was injured by a gunshot.

State police and University of Massachusetts police K9 units were contacted to assist with the investigation, and police recovered a handgun, a 9 mm pistol.

According to a police press release, Chea will face these additional weapons charges in Eastern Hampshire District Court Tuesday: possession of a handgun without a permit, possession of a firearm with a defaced serial number, carrying a dangerous weapon (handgun and use of a firearm in commission of a felony).

Chea's vehicle was damaged during the incident and towed.

Chea has been in trouble with local police in the past, according to Gazette files.

In April 2008, Chea was one of three men arrested on charges of charges of assault and battery causing serious bodily injury, as well as additional charges of assault and battery with a dangerous



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weapon (a shod foot) resisting arrest and disorderly conduct, following an incident behind a Triangle Street business in which a Connecticut man was beaten up.

In March 2003, Chea was one of several people arrested on charges of distributing a class B drug, cocaine, from Mill Valley Estates, a South Amherst apartment complex.

It is unclear whether he was convicted of these offenses.

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