

## Trial in double slaying to start

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Detroit man charged with shooting deaths of ex-girlfriend, her new boyfriend **in** 2007.

By Christina StolarzThe Detroit News

MOUNT CLEMENS — The **double** murder was all planned: the weapon, the Halloween-mask disguise and the plan of attack.

That's what Macomb Assistant Prosecutor Steve Fox said he will attempt **to** prove as Detroit resident Xavier Chase's **double** -murder **trial** begins today before Macomb Circuit Judge Peter Maceroni.

"I think the proofs will be pretty clear that it was premeditated," Fox said. "It was all planned out. It wasn't an emotional reaction. It's cold-blooded, and it's pretty scary."

The 40-year-old Detroit man is charged with two counts of first-degree murder **in** connection with the Nov. 4, 2007, shooting of his ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend. He is also charged with two counts of felony firearm and one count of being a felon **in** possession of a firearm.

Jury selection is expected **to** begin today. Chase is being held **in** the Macomb County Jail without bond.

Chase is accused of laying **in** wait outside Rema Reed's south Warren apartment carrying a gun and wearing a mask like the killer **in** the "Halloween" slasher movies. Police say Chase ambushed them as Reed, 32, and her new boyfriend, Terry Buchanan, 36, left the apartment **to** leave for work **in** the morning.

Reed tried **to** drive away, running up on the curb, when Chase allegedly shot her twice **in** the head and face, police said. Buchanan ran, but was fatally shot twice **in** the complex's driveway.

Warren police say Chase ran from the scene eastbound toward Hoover Road where, after a short foot pursuit, he was arrested without incident.

Chase's defense attorney, Timothy Barkovic, said there are several flaws **in** the prosecution's case — most notably identification.

"It's pretty hard **to** identify a masked man," Barkovic said. "I'm extremely optimistic **in** terms of the defendant's chances at **trial** . He is going **to** testify. He wants **to** tell the jury his side of the story. It's imperative they know his side of the story."

Barkovic said Chase and Reed had a relationship for many years, but had since remained friends.

Barkovic said Reed even texted Chase days before the killing **to** express her frustrations with Buchanan.

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