

Stalking trial set for next week

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Cedar Grove man charged with terrorizing neighbor for two years

The Cedar Grove man who stalked his next-door neighbor for 2-1/2 years and told authorities he planned to rape and kill her refused a plea bargain and has requested a jury trial, his victim said.

Thomas F. Schultz, 50, who is in the Oshkosh Correctional Institution serving an 18-month prison sentence for illegally possessing a firearm, is scheduled for a two-day trial Thursday and Friday, Dec. 9 and 10, in Sheboygan County Circuit Court Branch 2. Judge Timothy Van Akkeren will preside over the proceedings.

Schultz pleaded not guilty to two felony burglary charges, two misdemeanor trespassing charges and one misdemeanor theft.

The 63-year-old victim, who asked not to be identified, said she lived in fear for the 2-1/2 years she suspected Schultz was entering her home and rifling through her clothing, and now must re-live that ordeal.

“He turned down a plea bargain that would have added seven years to his current sentence. I guess he felt he could do better with a jury,” the woman said.

“It will finally be over. But then I have to gear myself up for the verdict and the sentencing. I don’t know how I feel. I will be relieved when it’s finally over.”

Schultz was photographed in the woman’s home on June 27, 2009, by a video surveillance camera she installed.

When authorities searched Schultz’s home, they found a .22 caliber handgun and what they called a rape kit that included handcuffs, leg restraints, duct tape, dark clothing and latex gloves.

According to the complaint, Schultz said he planned to use the items to rape and kill his neighbor.

“He had everything planned out, and he told them about it,” the woman said. “He’s a very sick man.”

Schultz’s wife and son still live next door, the woman said, but the house is for sale.