

CALIFORNIA: Ex-pastor faces trial for robberies

Written by Tomoya Shimura
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VICTORVILLE • A former pastor is facing trial after he was charged with robbing four businesses in the Victor Valley by handing the clerks a threatening note and pretending he had a gun.

William Lee Bullington, 54, was arrested at his Hesperia home in November after deputies responded to Richie's Diner in Victorville for a robbery. Investigators identified Bullington as the suspect after they got a description of the robber and his license plate.

Prosecutors charged Bullington with three more robberies that took place at Wood Grill Buffet, Los Alazanes Mexican Food and Salvation Army Thrift Store, all in Hesperia last September and November.

Myra Medina testified Wednesday she was working as a cashier at the Wood Grill Buffet on Sept. 17, 2011 when a man dressed in black came up and handed her a note.

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It stated he would shoot her unless she gave him the money, Medina said.

“I went over to the register and gave him all the money in the register, and he told me to put it in a black bag he had,” she said.

The man had his right hand in his pocket, gesturing he had a gun, and told her to hurry up, Medina testified. He left the restaurant with the money before Medina called 911.

The victim identified Bullington as the robber in court Wednesday.

Each robbery count carries a prison term of up to five years.

Bullington was a pastor at Calvary Chapel in Apple Valley until 2007. Administrators at the church didn't return Daily Press' phone calls Wednesday.

Bullington's trial is scheduled to resume Thursday in Victorville court.

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