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Rockford restaurant employee shot during robbery

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ROCKFORD — A restaurant employee was shot early Thursday morning after he refused to hand over money during an attempt.

Police said the 69-year-old male employee of Villa Di Roma Pizza, 1620 Harrison Ave., was shot once in the buttock and cut on his head during the 2 a.m. robbery attempt.

Police believe 20-year-old John A. Shabazz entered the business and demanded money from the employee. When he refused, Shabazz shot the man and fled the scene.

Police set up a perimeter and later located the suspect with the assistance of a Law Enforcement Aviation Coalition 109 patrol.

Shabazz is being charged with armed robbery and aggravated battery with a firearm. He is being held in the Winnebago County Jail.

The employee, whose name is not being released, was treated and released from the hospital.

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