

Food Cart Operator Mends

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lights to his customers, and helping his community.

Bell, 42, has no idea why he was shot. Portland Police are investigating. But he is focusing on what he can control: His mental attitude and remaining optimistic.

“Everything is the first step to moving forward. I want to take the first step in a positive direction,” said Bell.

Bell was born in Portland and raised in New Orleans. He decided to open his

food cart six years ago to become financially independent and to introduce Portland to the unique shaved ice called “snowballs.”

“I just wanted to work on myself and be a self-sufficient Black, working man and take care of myself,” Bell said. “It seemed like a cool job to have. I decided to take a leap and bet on myself. It’s been going well, even through this.”

Bell uses a snowball maker he imported from New Orleans that shaves ice so fine it becomes like snow. When Bell

adds the flavor picked by the customer, it’s absorbed into every flake so each bite has the same taste. The unique product has drawn rave reviews.

Bell has become well known throughout the metro area as he moves his food cart between local high schools and a number of other locations. He posts each day’s location on social media.

“This summer was our busiest summer to date,” Bell said.

This was the first crime Bell has encountered since opening his business. The cart was damaged in the incident. Bell plans to repair it and reopen in the near future.

“My food cart is a family-friendly business. Safety has always been my first priority,” said Bell. “This was a random, senseless act. I plan to come back stronger and even more positive. In the meantime, I want to thank the people in law enforcement, medical services and everyone in the community who has reached out to me.”

Bell has supported his community since he opened, giving away gift cards and donating meals to essential workers and the homeless. He plans to continue that support when he reopens.

Anyone with information related to the shooting should contact Portland Police Department.

Thanks to the Portland Police Bureau’s Public Information Office for this story.



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North by Northeast Community Health Center Executive Director Suzy Jeffreys and Community Health Worker Sharetta Butcher load up a new electric vehicle donated by Pacific Power with health-related materials to expand outreach on community health needs like COVID vaccines, blood pressure checks and other health information.

Electric Vehicle Expands Clinic’s Reach

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viding COVID vaccines and blood pressure checks at various locations.

It’s a unique, environmentally-friendly solution that the clinic hopes to expand on.

Besides helping the clinic to reduce its carbon footprint, the EV also reduces the clinic’s operation and maintenance costs related to transportation. And it offers an opportunity to educate community members about electric vehicles. Additionally, the chargers will be made available to the public for charging during off-peak hours.

Eventually, the clinic hopes to acquire larger e-vehicles to provide a full array of mobile clinical services, officials said.