

# U'Licious Opens Barbecue Restaurant on Killingsworth

James Harris is welcoming new and old customers to his U'Licious Smokehouse and Grill, now serving customers at a new location, 1505 N.E. Killingsworth St.

Harris prides himself with bringing Portland the best beef brisket in town. The chef cooks his brisket, rib tips and other specialties on a boiler grill, a delicious way to barbecue that gives U'Licious' lunch and dinner entrees a

one-up on the competition.

He's also known for other barbecue and seafood favorites. His homemade potato salad is his most popular side order.

After one bite, you'll be lined up and ready for seconds.

Come to U'Licious Smokehouse and Grill ready to eat and ready to walk away saying "that's the best barbecue ever."

*U'Licious Smokehouse and Grill owner James Harris has opened his restaurant in a new location at 1505 N.E. Killingsworth St.*

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



## Northwest Voice For Christ Ministries "An Interdenominational Church"

THE VOICES SPEAKS



Third Appreciation Service  
Honoring

*Pastor & Elect Lady—Bishop H. L. & Earlean P. Hodge  
Pastor/Teacher/Revivalist*

June 6, 2010 at 3:00 P.M.

Theme: "A Servant's Reward" (Matt. 25:21)

Location: True Vine Missionary BC  
4735 N. Commerical, Portland, OR. 97217

*NW Voice For Christ Ministries: Will be hosting a Luncheon in honor of:*

*Elect Lady Earlean P. Hodge  
Saturday: June 5, 2010 1:00 P.M.*

*Theme: "A Woman On A Mission" (Esther 4:16b)  
True Vine Missionary BC, 4735 N. Commerical  
Portland, OR. 97217*

*Keynote Speaker: Evangelist Dr. Barbara Tellis*

*For more info call (503) 863-6545      Donation \$15.00*

## Rough Patch

continued ▲ from front

been a positive presence in Portland, his relationship with Yoakum has been overblown, and his restaurant has gotten a bad rap from "snitches" arrested in the sting who were angling for a lighter sentence. He also said that he's staying in business.

Matthews, a 59-year-old transplant for Birmingham, Ala. whose accent remains strong, said he became friends with Yoakum playing dice in after-hours spots after mov-

ing to Portland in 1988. He said he employed Yoakum, whom he still considers a friend, as a cook from 2000 to 2002, and even lived next door to him in a duplex in north Portland. His closeness to Yoakum, said Matthews, has erroneously led law enforcement to believe he was involved in the drug ring.

However, Matthews insists he never knew Yoakum was a drug dealer.

"As far as me knowing, I couldn't put my hands on the Bible and swear that he's a drug dealer because I never bought any from him, and I never sold him any, and that's something I don't do. I'm not a drug person; anybody in this community who know me knows that I don't deal with drugs," said Matthews.

Matthews said that drugs may have been dealt in his parking lot over the years, but added that the same is true of many businesses—and it's something he can't control.

In September, law enforcement agents raided Yam Yam's and discovered \$60,000 cash in a safe, which investigators claimed came from laundering drug money.

"Why am I not in jail?" said Matthews, who has not been indicted. "Why not arrest me if you can prove these allegations that you are bringing up against me?"

Matthews said that he usually keeps large sums of money on hand because of a sick cousin in Alabama he has attended to from time to time. He also claimed that the seized \$60,000 was leftover from refinancing his business, and has recovered a portion of it from the IRS.

In October, the Oregonian reported that an IRS investigation found that he was laundering money and the \$60,000 came from drug trafficking. Calls to the U.S. Attorney's

office, which prosecuted this case, were not returned.

The newspaper also reported that Matthews is \$415,000 in default on the property, and it will be sold in June, if not paid.

Matthews, who has owned Yam Yam's for 13 years, said that business tanked after the charges against Yoakum and a group of other defendants broke in October. He said he had to lay off all of his employees and run the restaurant by himself. The drop in customers caused him to fall behind on payments, he claimed, but has worked out something with his lender and will keep the eatery open.

He also noted that his restaurant has been community oriented, helping out with fundraisers for high schools and other organizations, giving ex-cons a second chance with a job, and providing food at the annual Juneteenth celebration—an event that commemorates the abolition of slavery in the U.S.

"I've never been a thorn in the community," he said.

Robbin Mayfield, associate pastor at Victory Outreach Church, said Matthews has allowed the use of his parking lot for car washes to benefit the church.

Donnie McPherson said Matthews donated money to Jefferson High School's wrestling team, which he used to coach, in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Matthews added that not only will he not shut his doors, but has plans for a "new Yam Yam's" that includes a liquor license, lottery games, more employees and additions to the menu. He said he'll be open for Juneteenth, just like past years, and is having a free barbecue this Thursday from noon to 2 p.m.

"Yam Yam's will be here," said Matthews. "I'm not going any place."

For a video of the Matthews interview, visit the Portland Observer website at [portlandobserver.com](http://portlandobserver.com).

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