

# SmokedByFaith BBQ

## BBQ BRISKET CHICKEN DAILY SPECIALS

Danny Cowick

*Come and enjoy some fresh, slow-smoked BBQ!*

**TUE-THU 11-7 TAKE OUT ONLY**

100 Effird Circle  
(Hwy 74) in Polkton  
Across from Brown Creek Animal Hospital

**704-272-7915**  
**support@smokedbyfaith.com**

## OPTOMETRIST

Dr. Holly Kiker, OD

**Comprehensive Eye Examinations**

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Now Accepting New Patients  
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1134 Holly Street  
Wadesboro  
(On Hwy 74 across from CVS)  
Mon-Thurs 8:30-5  
Closed Fridays

## GULLEDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Saturday, March 8 11am until...**

### CHICKEN OR PORK

*Served with  
Baked Beans, Slaw, Rolls,  
Homemade Desserts  
& Drink \$13/Plate*

**\$13 Cartons Available Warm or Cold**

### BEDROOM SET AVAILABLE IN QUEEN & KING SIZE

**HEADBOARD LIGHTING**

**STORAGE IN FOOTBOARD**

**FINANCING AVAILABLE OWN IT NOW!**

**SAME OR NEXT DAY DELIVERY**

## MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET

Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185 Mon-Fri 8:30-5 Sat 8:30-1

**VISIT OUR SLEEP SHOP**

Mon-Fri 8:30-5  
Saturday 8:30-1

## N.C. Forest Service Urging Diligence, Best Practices and Common Sense When Burning Outdoors

March signals the beginning of spring wildfire season in North Carolina, and the N.C. Forest Service is urging residents to be diligent about using best practices and common sense with all outdoor fires, especially yard debris burns. Western North Carolina counties dealing with significant storm debris from Hurricane Helene are especially vulnerable to wildfires due to increased fuel loading from downed timber.

“We reduce our wildfire risk by working together,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “When it comes to wildfire response this time of year, the N.C. Forest Service is at the ready, repositioning resources as needed. We need you to be prepared and ready for wildfire. Understand that you’re not powerless when it comes to wildfire prevention and risk reduction. Everyone has a role to play, starting with making good decisions and planning ahead if you intend to start a fire.”

Escaped yard debris burns, often due to carelessness, continue to be the leading cause of wildfires across the state, accounting for nearly half of all wildfires in North Carolina. In general, human activity is responsible for 99% of wildfires, and spring weather tends to draw people outdoors to work in their yards with many choosing to burn as a method to dispose of leaves, limbs and other yard debris.

“Careless behaviors, such as burning on the wrong day, leaving a fire unattended, not staying with a fire until it is fully extinguished, can result in a fire escaping and becoming a dangerous wildfire that quickly threatens lives and property,” said N.C. Forest Service Assistant Commissioner and State Forester Greg Hicks. “Your N.C. Forest Service county ranger is a great resource for recommending best practices and guidance about when, where and how to burn safely outdoors.”

Before starting an outdoor fire, contact your local NCFS county ranger’s office. The N.C. Forest Service also offers the following tips:

- Check local burning laws. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours. Others forbid it entirely.
- Make sure you have a valid permit. You can obtain a burn permit at any N.C. Forest Service office or authorized permitting agent, or online at: [www.ncforestservice.gov/burnpermit](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burnpermit).
- Keep an eye on the weather. Don’t burn on dry, windy days.
- Local fire officials can recommend a safe way to burn debris. Don’t pile vegetation on the ground. Instead, place it in a cleared area and contain it in a screened receptacle away from overhead branches and wires.
- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning. To control the fire, you will need a hose, bucket, steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Be sure to keep a phone nearby, too.
- Never use kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel or other flammable liquids to speed up debris burning.
- Stay with your fire until it is completely out.

These same tips apply to campfires and grills as well. Douse burning charcoal briquettes or campfires thoroughly with water. Drown all embers, not just the red ones. When soaked, stir the coals and soak them again. Make sure everything is wet and that embers are cold to the touch. If you do not have water, mix enough dirt or sand with the embers to extinguish the fire, being careful not to bury the fire. Never dump hot ashes or coals into a wooded area.

To learn more about fire safety and preventing wildfires and loss of property, refer to Fire Safety Outdoors ([ncagr.gov fire safety outdoors](http://ncagr.gov/fire-safety-outdoors)). For information about creating defensible space and a fire-resistant landscape around your home and property, visit [www.resistwildfirenc.org](http://www.resistwildfirenc.org). Contact information for county rangers with the N.C. Forest Service is available online at [www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/contacts).

The media and public are reminded to never fly a drone near, around or over a wildfire. Firefighting aircraft that respond to wildfires fly low in support of ground personnel. Drones can pose a serious threat to pilot and public safety. A drone that disrupts air operations also puts firefighters, residents and property at risk of loss to wildfire.

## Turn off Lights at Night to Help Spring Bird Migrants

### Many birds migrate at night

### Join efforts across the state to reduce fatal bird building collisions by going Lights Out at night through May 30

Birds face a number of threats during their long migration journeys, but you can help by simply turning off unnecessary lights at night and advocating for your neighbors, employer, or local government to do the same.

Many municipalities are doing their part to advance Lights Out across the state. Last fall, the city of Winston-Salem passed a Lights Out proclamation thanks to advocacy by Forsyth Audubon. The city joins eight other municipalities and counties who have passed Lights Out policies, including Asheville, Greensboro, Matthews, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Cary, Durham, and Cumberland County.

The momentum for Lights Out comes at an important time; a study published last year estimates that more than one billion birds die each year from fatal building collisions in the United States. This is much more than previously estimated and is due largely to lights and reflective windows that cause birds to become disoriented as they pass through our cities and towns.

Many birds primarily migrate at night, using the moon and stars to navigate back to their breeding grounds, which means an influx of birds passing through our state during the spring months.

“Folks across the state can have a big impact for birds during spring migration, starting tonight wherever you work or live,” said Curtis Smalling, executive director at Audubon North Carolina. “The science shows that small actions like turning off lights at night and making windows less reflective can save a significant number of birds each year.”

Going Lights Out is a simple yet effective way everyone can help to ensure birds complete their long journeys back to their breeding grounds. Other actions that help migrating birds include installing bird-friendly window treatments at homes, buildings, and urban centers and planting more trees.

**Here is what you can do to help no matter where you live or work:**

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting.
- Extinguish pot and flood-lights.
- Substitute strobe lighting wherever possible Reduce atrium lighting wherever possible.
- Reduce interior lighting especially on higher stories.
- Close blinds and curtains.
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and all light directed upward.
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible.
- When converting to new lighting, assess quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology.

To learn how you can get involved with an active Lights Out program, contact one of these chapters, [nc.audubon.org/centers-and-chapters](http://nc.audubon.org/centers-and-chapters).

**About Audubon North Carolina** Audubon North Carolina, a state program of the National Audubon Society, has offices in Durham, Boone, Corolla, and Wilmington. Learn more at [nc.audubon.org](http://nc.audubon.org) and on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. Learn more at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @audubonsociety.

## Gaston County Man Will Take Care of His Family with \$1 Million Second-Chance Win

Eddie Graham of Belmont has entered second-chance drawings for years and his persistence paid off with a \$1 million grand prize on Wednesday. “This is unreal,” Graham said. “I’m still processing it.”

He won the top prize in the fourth and final 200X The Cash second-chance drawing on Wednesday. The drawing received more than 1.6 million entries.

“This type of thing just doesn’t happen to me,” he said. “It couldn’t have come at a better time though.”

The 200X The Cash game featured four second-chance drawings. Each drawing offered one \$1 million prize, one \$200,000 prize, and 25 \$500 prizes.

“I’ve been doing the second chance for years,” he said. “The only tickets I buy are second chance ones.”

When Graham arrived at lottery headquarters Thursday, he had a decision to make. He could choose to receive his prize as an annuity of \$50,000 over 20 years or a lump sum of \$600,000. He chose the lump sum of \$600,000 and, after required tax withholdings, took home \$430,500.

Graham plans to use the winnings to pay some bills, buy a used truck, and possibly buy a house. He also wants to help out his family. “I can use this to take care of my daughter and granddaughter,” he said.

For details on how money raised by the lottery made a difference for education programs in Anson County last year, visit [www.nclottery.com](http://www.nclottery.com) and click on the “Impact” section.

