

WELCOME TO AMERICANA

Red, white, and blue. Beer and barbecue. Flagstaff and the Fourth are a match. Here's your guide to a most patriotic weekend. *By Annette McGivney*

JULY 2

4 P.M.

BEER O'CLOCK

This is a college town, so it's no surprise that there's good craft beer on every corner. **Flagstaff Brewing Company's** sunny patio fronts Route 66, and its Weissbread Wheat, a hefeweizen with hints of clove and banana, hits the spot on a warm day. Across the tracks, at **Mother Road Brewing Company**, the Roadside American Ale and Tower Station IPA honor the famed highway, nicknamed the "Mother Road." Meanwhile, the folks at **Historic Brewing Company** serve up malty, refreshing Altbier and vanilla-fingering Piehole Porter. **Flagstaff Brewing:** 16 E. Route 66; flagbrew.com. **Mother Road Brewing:** 7 S. Mikes Pike; motherroadbeer.com. **Historic Brewing:** 4366 E. Huntington Dr.; historicbrewingcompany.com.

7 P.M.

HOTEL CHECK-IN

When Henry Taylor purchased the **Weatherford Hotel** four decades ago, he vowed to restore the inn, built in 1897, to its original splendor. Today, it's a Victorian beauty, with

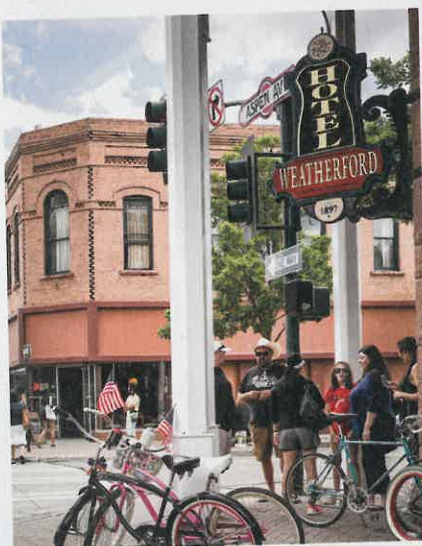
woodstoves in some bedrooms, stained glass in the ballroom, a restored Prohibition-era speakeasy, and even, allegedly, a resident ghost. The Navajo taco at the hotel pub, Charly's, raises the bar on the state specialty, a taco/fry-bread hybrid. Here, it arrives heaped with cheese, chicken, avocado, and sour cream. From \$155, Charly's \$\$; 23 N. Leroux St.; weatherfordhotel.com.

JULY 3

9 A.M.

A SPIN ON ROUTE 66

It doesn't get more patriotic and American than Route 66. Since part of the road runs through downtown, you can walk some of its iconic pavement here. Pick up a self-guided tour map at the visitor center, or download a copy to your phone. Highlights include an 1897 Amtrak depot, a towering neon sign still advertising \$5 rooms, and a 10-foot-high wooden lumberjack named Louie. Reward your efforts at the **Galaxy Diner** on West Route 66. The place is straight out of the 1950s, with a jukebox, tunes by Elvis and Fats Domino, and a chrome-plated soda fountain that



Counterclockwise from top: Flagstaff's parade draws revelers from around the world. This year, the parade announcers will be stationed on the Weatherford Hotel balcony. Poetry in neon on Route 66.

Photographs by LISA CORSON

turns out a Butterfinger milkshake (along with 100 other flavors). Walking tour: flagstaffarizona.org/plan-your-trip/tours. Galaxy Diner: \$; 931 W. Hwy. 66; jbsfamily.com/galaxy-diner.

2 P.M.

THE PATRIOTIC DUDS
The locals don head-to-toe stars and stripes for the big parade. If you need to dress up your plain white T, head to **Incahoots Vintage Clothing and Costumes** to hunt for flair. The quirky shop sells feather boas, tutus, and wigs in every color imaginable. Around the corner, **Black Hound Gallery** stocks silly T-shirts and wild sunglasses—all the better to pair with your boa. Now you're ready to celebrate in style! Incahoots: 9 E. Aspen Ave.; (928) 773-9447. Black Hound: 120 N. Leroux; (928) 774-2323.

JULY 4

9 A.M.

PARADE TIME

Twenty thousand revelers pack downtown for this 100-boat parade. The red, white, and blue-clad spectators cheer along 10 blocks, as decades' worth of Americana rolls past: horse-drawn covered wagons, vintage tractors, American Graffiti-era cars, 1970s peace vans. Besides the homespun attractions—high school marching bands, Boy Scouts—there are always surprises (flamenco dancers, Vikings, bagpipers). If you don't need to be in the heart of the action, may we recommend

watching the show from the third-story balcony of the Weatherford Hotel, with a mimosa in hand? Parade: flagstaffchamber.com. Weatherford Hotel: 23 N. Leroux; weatherfordhotel.com.

12 P.M.

ALL-AMERICAN BBQ
A proper Fourth calls for a proper barbecue. For an elevated take on the standards, head to the laid-back patio of **Tinderbox Kitchen**. Here, the humble hamburger and hot dog have been transformed: The burger arrives on a brioche bun, with bacon jam; the pork belly hot dog is accompanied by apricot mustard and pickled poppy seeds. If a 2-pound rack of ribs is more your speed, stop by **Bigfoot BBQ**, a Southern-tinged spot serving pulled-pork sandwiches, fried catfish, and mac 'n' cheese. Tinderbox: \$\$; 34 S. San Francisco St.; tinderboxkitchen.com. Bigfoot: \$; 120 N. Leroux; bigfootbbq.com.

3-11 P.M.

BOOM BOOM POW!

Cap off the weekend with live music from a local band, followed by an old-fashioned fireworks show at the Continental Country Club's annual **Lights on the Lawn**. The prime place to sit is on the golf green, next to The Oakmont Restaurant. From here, you can see the fireworks as they flash, glitter, and fall, along with Mt. Elden's granite cliffs, which practically glow at sunset. 2380 N. Oakmont; oakmontflagstaff.com. 🍷



S DIGITAL BONUS Plan your summer with our guide to the West's best events: sunset.com/summerevents.

Counterclockwise from top: To score a front-row blanket spot at Lights on the Lawn, arrive at the Country Club by 6 p.m. Foodie favorite Tinderbox Kitchen cooks up American classics for the big day.