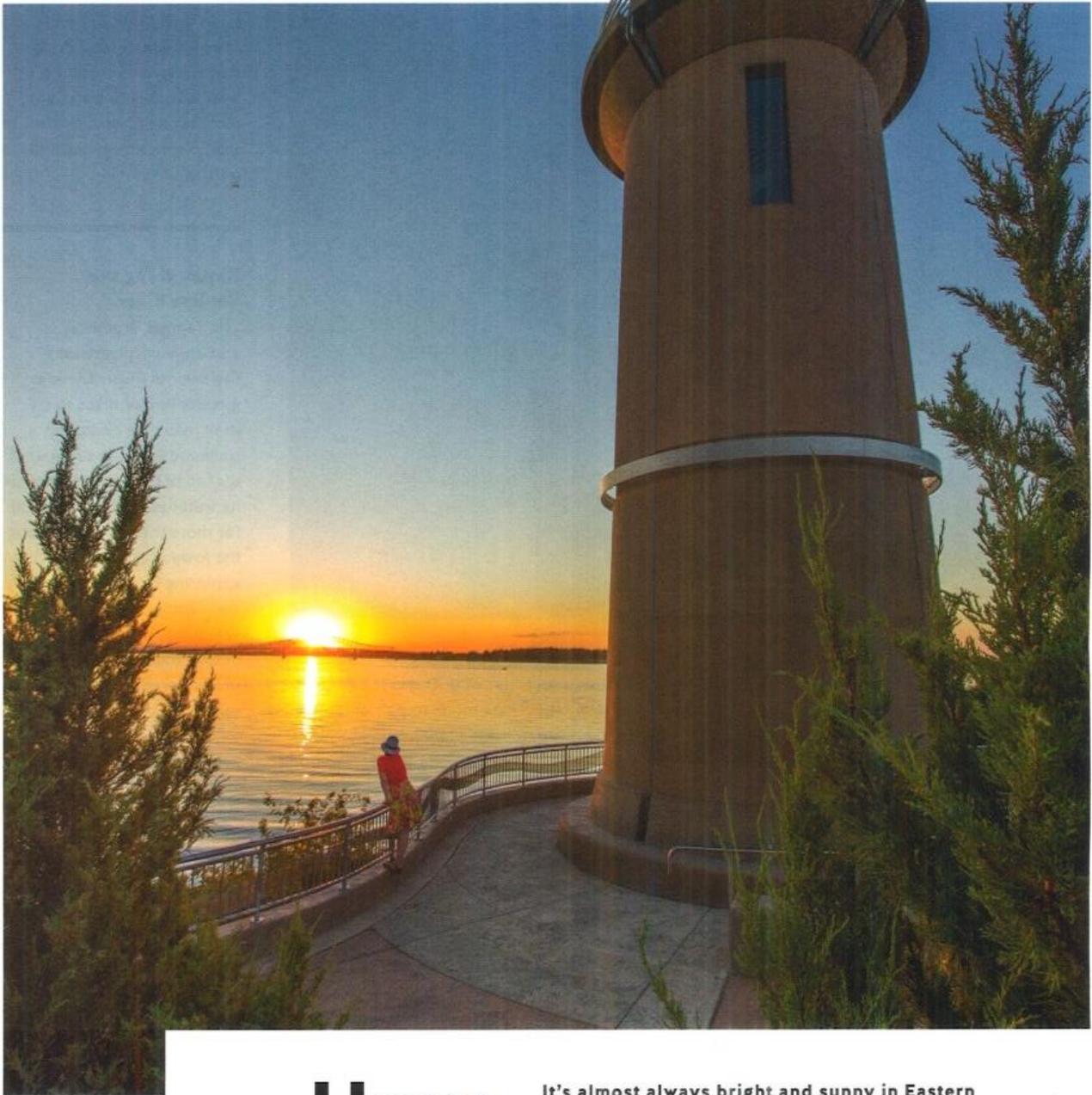


BY LAUREN FOSTER



PHOTOS COURTESY VISITTRI-CITIES

# Here Comes the Sun

*Take a quick trip to the Tri-Cities*

It's almost always bright and sunny in Eastern Washington during the summer. And with more than 300 days of sunshine on average per year, the Tri-Cities – Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland – is the perfect place to escape to when it's gloomy at home. The region is well-known for its wine, and there are more than 200 wineries, and plenty of breweries, scattered throughout the area. But this eastern pocket of Washington offers much more than booze. Located around the confluence of the Columbia, Snake, and Yakima rivers, the Tri-Cities offers a lot to explore along the water. There's also plenty to do outside when the average temperature in August is about 89 degrees. So grab your hat, sunglasses, and swimsuit and take a quick trip.



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### **Pick a Tee Time**

With all the beautiful sunshine, it's hard to find a bad day to visit the golf courses around the Tri-Cities. There are about 10 courses in the area. Canyon Lakes Golf Course in Kennewick is a popular place to putt. Stretching 12,000 square feet, its greens are perfectly kept and surround ponds and gardens. Columbia Point Golf Course is owned by the city of Richland. It offers challenging courses with rolling fairways. Sun Willows Golf Course in Pasco is a Robert Muir Graves-designed course that was first opened in the '60s.

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### **Be a Cowboy**

In August, it's Tri-Cities tradition to strap on your cowboy boots and head to the Benton Franklin Fair and Rodeo in Kennewick. There's a grand parade and carnival with rides and games. There's Mutton Bustin', where kids ride sheep, and the main rodeo events, where cowboys show off their skills. This year, Boyz II Men and Joan Jett & The Blackhearts will be performing. The fair is Aug. 19-26. *Kennewick* ■