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It's swimming season
 Stay cool in the pool or on the waterfront

Swim instructor Shea Whitman of Olympia encourages 3-year-olds Sydney Pettit (left) and Grace Tobin to blow bubbles as they move through the Capital Divers swimming pool.



Photo by Tony Overman/The Olympian

Linnea Simmons of Olympia does a water polo workout with staff member Terrell Donal (back to camera) at the Capital Divers swimming pool.



Photo by Tony Overman/The Olympian

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[SARAH JACKSON](#) THE OLYMPIAN

If you missed it coming earlier this week, That means more sunny days and more the summer solstice happened Friday. swimming for South Sound residents.

No, it doesn't necessarily mean a heat wave, despite occasional days in the 80s and 90s.

Statistics from the Western Regional Climate Center -- using National Weather Service data -- show Olympia's average monthly high temperatures don't make it out of the 70s ever.

But these are averages, meaning South Sound's temperatures from 1948 to 2000 have statistically peaked in August at an average 77 degrees over the course of the month.

June is the sorriest month of all for warm days in South Sound.

Last year -- one of the coolest summers in recent years -- June logged a mere five days at or above 75 degrees for highs.

July offered 13 days and August registered 17 days at 75 or above that same year.

But, then again, it only takes one hot day -- like the recording-breaking 94 degrees June 13 and 86 degrees June 12 -- to push South Sound residents into the pool.

Outdoor site

While South Sound can claim, really, only one outdoor community pool --Tanglewilde Pool in Lacey -- residents can enjoy lots of other options from freshwater to saltwater (which is generally colder) to the specialty saline-system pool at Capital Divers & Aquatics.

New this summer to the South Sound swimming scene, Capital Divers & Aquatics caters to swimmers as well as divers with its new pool, which opened in October.

"Our swimming lessons have really increased," said Brett Taylor, operations manager. "We also have a program called Aqua Explorers, which is water-based activities, three hours a day. That's been real popular for us."

Swimming lessons and water aerobics are open to nonmembers for a fee and adult lessons are available upon request. Swimming passes for nonmembers cost \$8. Memberships cost \$20 to \$30 a month per person and include use of the pool during lap and open swim times as well as discounts on class fees.

Pool system

Matthew Gill, sales department manager at Capital Divers & Aquatics, said members have been pleased with the new pool's Salt Pure system.

Instead of using liquid chlorine, the pool's generator produces chlorine from salt added to the 100,000-gallon pool.

That way, fewer chemicals need to be added to balance the pool's pH.

"There is a slight salt taste to it and that's about the extent of it," Gill said. "But it's not salt like in the Sound. It doesn't burn the eyes. It's not hard on the skin."

However, if you want the real thing -- salt -- check out Frye Cove Park, new on our list of South Sound swim areas this year.

Situated on Eld Inlet off Steamboat Island Road, the park doesn't have a designated swimming area, but it offers a sandy beach.

"Frye Cove is really sheltered and protected," said Chuck Groth, park operations manager with the Thurston County. "It's a real peaceful park, but it doesn't get a lot of use."

Frye Cove, however, might be best for those officially steamy days this summer, more common in July and August.



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"It has to get pretty hot," Groth said, "before they can go in the saltwater."

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