CLEARWATER - In what was her third Ironman competition in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Cynthia Newton slashed 38 minutes from her personal best, finishing fifth in her age group.

Because she was in the top five, in the bracket for females 50 to 54 years old, in the Aug. 21, 2016 competition, Judge Newton was given a special plaque. Fifty-four women in the group began the race, but only 38 finished.

The Ironman in Coeur d’Alene is a beautiful, if taxing, competition, as it entails a 112-mile bicycle ride, a 26.2-mile run through a scenic patch of the Pacific Northwest, and a 2.4-mile swim in Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Judge Newton’s time this year — 12 hours and 44 minutes — was a marked improvement over her performance in Coeur d’Alene in 2015, when she completed the Ironman in 13 hours and 22 minutes, finishing in 15th place in her age group.

And the 2015 performance was a marked improvement over her 2014 performance, since she cut more than two hours off her time the second time around.

All told, Judge Newton has completed five Ironman competitions.

In addition to the Ironman competition in Coeur d’Alene, the judge has finished one in Chattanooga, and “the world's toughest Ironman,” in Lake Tahoe, which is no longer in existence.

“Coeur d’Alene continues to be a great place to race,” Judge Newton said. “It’s so rewarding when all the hard work pays off.”