



Administrative Office of the Court
The Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida

14250 49th Street North, Suite 2000
 Clearwater, Florida 33762
 (727) 453-7176

Fax: (727) 453-7166

Gay Lynne Inskeep
 Trial Courts Administrator

Public Information Office

Judge Newton Completes Second Ironman!

CLEARWATER – A funny thing happened on the way to the Ironman in Lake Tahoe.

After training for twelve weeks, for what is considered the toughest course of its kind in North America, Pinellas Circuit Judge Cynthia Newton was all set to begin swimming in the lake’s cold waters as part of the Sept. 21 competition. But then, with just two minutes to go before the race’s start, it was cancelled because a nearby forest fire made the air unhealthy to breathe.

“It was a shocking and surreal experience to be standing on the beach at Lake Tahoe ready to start a very difficult swim in extremely cold water, and have an announcement made that the race was cancelled,” Judge Newton said. “As one friend put it, ‘this is going to cause severe psychological damage.’”

And it was the first time any Ironman had ever been cancelled. Ever.

As a concession, however, slots were opened up a few days later at other Ironman races, one of them in Chattanooga on Sept. 28, and Judge Newton took advantage of it.

She made a call to see if her bicycle could be re-routed (it could), and, in short order, flew home from Lake Tahoe on a Wednesday, flew to Chattanooga on a Friday, and took part in the Ironman there two days later.

The race was 144.6 miles — a 2.4 mile swim down the Tennessee river, a 116-mile bicycle ride through the rolling hills of Tennessee and Georgia, and a 26.2 mile run through the city’s downtown.



Cynthia Newton



SWIM	00:55:04	FINISH	13:42:24
BIKE	06:36:15		
RUN	05:52:04		

The judge’s time in the race was 13 hours and 42 minutes, a considerable improvement over her time in the Ironman Coeur d’Alene on June 29, which was 15 hours and 52 minutes.

Think about that. It’s no small accomplishment. All Ironman competitions have to be completed in 17 hours, and Judge Newton managed to shave more than two hours off her time the second time around. It was during that 116-mile bike-ride where the judge made most of her gains.

Next year, she’ll return to Coeur d’Alene and Lake Tahoe, with a goal of completing two of North America’s most difficult races in the same year.

Hopefully, there won’t be a forest fire near either one of them.