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# The Randolph Leader

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## Ms. Roanoke HealthCare Center crowned Ms. Alabama Nursing Home

MONTGOMERY--Ms. Roanoke HealthCare Center Trina Ward, 33, was crowned Ms. Alabama Nursing Home during the 26th annual Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant held at The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

Ward was born in Washington state, where she was the first physically challenged student to be fully integrated into a regular classroom. She often spoke to elementary students about her condition, arthrogryposis, and her physical challenges. Arthrogryposis is characterized by reduced mobility of many joints of the body due to the overgrowth of fibrous tissue in the joints. At Roanoke HealthCare Center, Ward is active in the church services and Bible study, reads to her fellow residents and makes necklaces for her friends.

As Ms. Alabama Nursing Home, Ward will travel to various nursing homes to share her experiences. She will also serve as an ambassador for nursing home residents at several Alabama Nursing Home Association events.

The Activities Department of Roanoke HealthCare Center will host a reception for Ward on Friday, Aug. 15, at 2 p.m. at the center on Seymour Drive. Roanoke HealthCare Center is a 65-bed facility located in Roanoke and owned by Ball HealthCare Services.

The state runners-up are: first runner-up - Ms. Woodland Village Nursing Home, Marie Bullock, 77, Cullman; second runner-up - Ms. Thomasville Nursing Home, Sue Mouring, 94, Thomasville; third runner-up - Ms. Canterbury Health Care, Lisa Strickland, 47, Phenix City; and fourth runner-up Ms. SunBridge for Gardendale, Miriam Sampson, 60, Gardendale.

The top 10 finalists from the field of 70 contestants had individual interviews with the panel of celebrity judges before competing on stage for the crown. All of the other contestants in attendance were part of the Honor Court and were individually recognized during the pageant.

The field was narrowed to the top 10 during preliminary judging in Montgomery on July 30 where contestants were judged on their outlook on life and their involvement in their individual nursing homes.

"The ladies that participated in the Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant should be commended because they are all wonderful ambassadors for their individual nursing homes and our profession in general," Alabama Nursing Home Association executive director Louis Cottrell said. "Each lady is a winner because she shares her optimistic outlook on life with her fellow residents and is actively involved in the life of her nursing home."



*Trina Ward is crowned Ms. Alabama Nursing Home during the 2008 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home Pageant at The Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham on August 5. Joining Ms. Ward are Miss Alabama Amanda Tapley and Greene County Nursing Home administrator Bob Coker.*

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