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vices, Developmental Disabilities Services Division.

"We would like to encourage everyone to recognize the characteristics common to all of us and be willing to celebrate differences for what they truly are — unique and individual talents," said Nicholson.

There are approximately 50,000 Oklahomans who have developmental disabilities — that means conditions which affect people during their developmental years.

"The biggest barriers to people with developmental disabilities aren't architectural. They're attitudinal," said Nicholson.

Some of the activities planned for this month are the Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities in Tulsa on March 25-26; and the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day Rally at the State Capitol March 21.

For more information about Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and activities, contact Sheree Powell, DDSD, at (405) 521-4972.

FROM: OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: 03/07/96

HONORS & AWARDS

TROOPER OF THE YEAR AND TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARDS CEREMONY ANNOUNCED

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The annual Troopers of the Year awards and the Jerry Marx Memorial awards will be presented on Wednesday, March 13, 1996.

The awards will be presented at the Highway Users Federation's annual Highway Safety Recognition Luncheon at 11:45 a.m. at Applewoods Restaurant, 4301 S.W. 3rd Street in Oklahoma City.

The 1995 heroism award recipient will be the trooper who apprehended the man charged with the Murrah Federal Building bombing in a traffic stop for speeding near Perry. The humanitarianism awards will be awarded to the 13 Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers who participated in the Murrah Federal Building rescue in downtown Oklahoma City.

Other awards to be presented will be the annual Community Traffic Safety award and media awards from the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office (OHSO). The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety will recognize the print, broadcast and television media with the annual Jerry Marx awards for excellence in traffic safety reporting.

This year, the AAA Pedestrian Protection Program awards will be presented by the Automobile Club of Oklahoma and AAA Oklahoma to cities and towns who have provided a safe environment for pedestrians in their corporate limits.

FROM: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: 03/07/96

OIL & GAS

KEATING CALLS FOR PASSAGE OF GROSS PRODUCTION TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR OKLAHOMA'S SAGGING OIL INDUSTRY

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Governor Frank Keating and several representatives of Oklahoma's oil industry today called for the passage of gross production tax exemptions for the sagging Oklahoma oil industry.

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