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- Special to the Leader & Times

Every year, as February arrives, members of Liberal's Black History Committee invite everyone in the community to join in the celebration of Black History Month.

This year is no different.

"We're announcing our schedule for Black History Month, and we invite everyone to participate," said committee member Tracy Hammond.

Things kick off at 3 p.m. Sunday, with the "Come Together" gathering at Bibleway Church, 410 E. Eighth St.

"This event is to get everyone around the community together and unite as one," Hammond said. "There will be youth entertainment with skits, praise and dance." Churches from the community are invited to participate, and may contact Faye Alsup at 626-0184 or Gwen Moore

Sunday event kicks off Black History Month

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at 626-7518, for information.

The following week, again at 3 p.m. Sunday, the “Taste Festival” will occur at the National Guard Armory.

“If you love down-home cooking and soul food, this is the place to be,” Hammond stated. The free event is open to all nationalities, and has traditionally provided an afternoon of great food and fellowship.

The Fashion and Talent Show is set for 3 p.m. Feb. 16, at the Seward County Community College/Area Technical School theater, 1801 N. Kansas Ave.

“If you love to dress or have an act that you would like to perform, this is the spot to be,” Hammond said. “We are looking for people that may sing, dance, or like to show off their clothes.” Businesses that would like to have someone model clothing may also participate. For information, contact Kathy Pugh at 655-9375 or Christine Hammond at 482-6138.

For 10 years, the Black History Committee has sponsored a formal banquet in honor of Rosa Parks, at which a scholarship is awarded to a selected high school, African-American senior. The event features guest speakers and, for the first time, live entertainment by the Liberal High School Jazzmen. The catered meal will be provided by Great Western Dining. Location for the banquet is Room 229, in the student union at SCCC/ATS, 1801 N. Kansas Ave.

Tickets for the meal, priced at \$15 per person, are now on sale. To purchase a ticket in advance, contact Tracy Hammond at 655-6353, or Christine Hammond at 482-6138.

Wrapping up the month’s activities is the annual Black History Community Choir gospel concert, set for 3 p.m. Feb. 23 at Bibleway Church, 410 E. Eighth St.

“If you love gospel music and love to praise the Lord, you will not be disappointed,” Tracy said.

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“We are still looking for people to join the choir. If you love to sing, please come out and be a part of this glorious event.”

The choir has scheduled practices throughout the month of February. Those interested in joining should call director Melody Green at 309-7644.

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