

# Living history

## Former educator imitates Frederick Douglass

**By Starke Jett**

A retired special education personal mission to bring Black persona of famous abolitionist area schools and other interested

Harvey Hendrick was a teacher from Manson, North Carolina

He is a self proclaimed artist, the Westmoreland Players.



Hendrick

teacher and Warsaw resident has made it his History Month to life by recreating the Frederick Douglass. He'll be appearing for organizations throughout the month.

at Rappahannock High School for 35 years. He came to the area after graduating from Norfolk State College in 1974.

actor and writer, who has performed with a local theater group,

He served as a U.S. Army sergeant, serving in Vietnam from 1968-1971. He was awarded an infantry commendation for valor and heroism in 1969.

To honor black history he's grown his hair to resemble Frederick Douglass, Hendrick has writ-

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## Douglass

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ten a one-man performance play retracing the great abolitionist's life. He calls it a "docudrama".

"I am a student of Douglass," said Hendrick. "He had a tremendous life. I want to bring him to life."

Frederick Douglass was born in 1818 in Talbot County Md. on the Eastern Shore. He died in 1895 at age 77 after a phenomenal career as an outspoken advocate for freeing his people through writing, editing and diplomacy.

Born a slave, Douglass finally escaped bondage at age 20 by impersonating a seaman and traveling to the north by train. But this was not until after he had endured severe whippings from one owner due to his rebellious

become a leader and a respected advisor to several presidents.

"I want to try to show students the relevancy of that time period to this one and how Douglass is similar to President Obama," said Hendrick.

Hendrick gave a performance at Rappahannock High School on Wed. Feb. 6 at 2 p.m, for Hyte

Smith's U.S. history class. He will give a performance at the Westmoreland Player's Hall on February 22 at 3 p.m. Lastly he will do a show at Rappahannock Community College on February 27 at 11 a.m.

For further information contact Hendrick at 394-9691.