

West speaks to Rankin County leaders, law enforcement and offenders

Special to Pelahatchie News

Rankin and Madison District Attorney (DA) John K. Bramlett's office sponsored multiple events on September 20, 2022. The DA's office brought internationally known speaker and author Damon West to share his story with diverse audiences across Rankin County.

The morning began with West speaking to a room full of Rankin County community leaders. Later he shared his message with law enforcement officers from around the state who were attending the Blue to Gold Law Enforcement Training Conference sponsored by the DA's Office, Rankin County Sheriff's Office, US Attorney's Office, and other local businesses and leaders.

During the afternoon, West spoke to participants in the District Attorney's Pretrial Intervention Program before speaking to Twentieth Circuit Drug Court participants. He ended the day talking with trustees in the Rankin County Adult Detention Center.

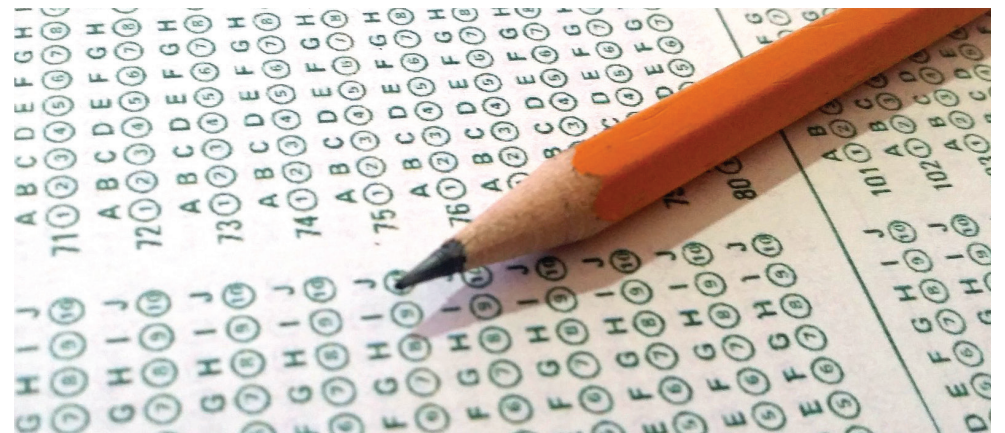
The inspirational story of his roller-coaster life: having it all with great loving parents, being a D1 college starting quarterback, working for a Presidential Candidate and stockbroker, to living on the streets as a crystal meth

addict and a burglar can relate across all sides of the law.

West discussed his life as a ringleader of burglary crimes in Dallas, Texas, that left his victims out of tens of thousands of dollars and him with a life sentence of 65 years in a Texas maximum-security prison. When speaking with law enforcement, he focused on how if they weren't careful, their hearts would quickly harden because of their demanding jobs. When speaking with those currently incarcerated in the Rankin County Adult Detention Center, he focused on how prison was not a punishment but rather an opportunity to better themselves before being released. Finally, he related to the inmates and talked about how he is on parole until 2073, so he too must fight his addiction daily, and he cannot make even one mistake that would lead him back to prison to finish serving his life sentence.

Regardless of the audience, West left everyone with the same message that they should all live servant leadership lives. In addition, he encouraged everyone to "Be A Coffee Bean," which is the lesson he learned in prison and carries out into the world today to make a difference in the lives of others.

Hinds CC offering online ACT test prep



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Hinds Community College is offering ACT basics test preparation online through December 17. The self-paced noncredit courses cost \$50 for the basic course, \$95 for English prep and \$95 for the math prep.

To register and pay for the courses go to hindscc.catalog.instructure.com/browse/workforce

The ACT Basics course is designed to help students improve their ACT scores by becoming familiar with the ACT test, test prep resources and strategies to begin mastering ACT questions.

The English prep course is designed

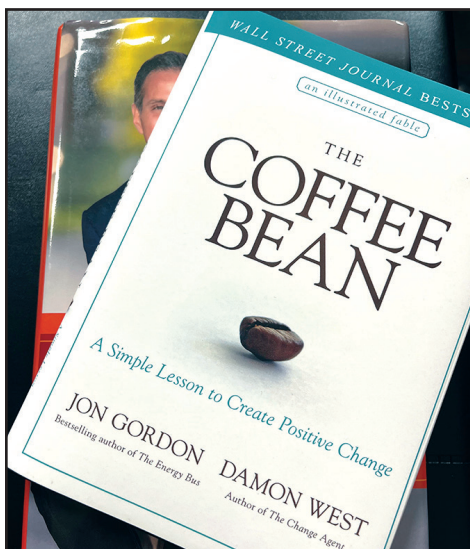
to help strengthen the core grammatical and semantic skills that are central to doing well on the English section of the ACT. Just as importantly, it helps with strategy, including insight on how the exam is structured and tips to use that structural knowledge to improve scores.

The Math prep course offers opportunity to take a practice test, see which topic areas need the most assistance and practice lessons to help improve knowledge in those particular areas of mathematics through videos, explanations and practice problems.

For more information, contact Jennifer Rodgers at 601-857-3789 or email Jennifer.rodgers@hindscc.edu.



Damon West encourages Rankin County leaders, law enforcement and offenders to "Be A Coffee Bean."



The Coffee Bean, co-authored by Jon Gordon and Damon West - "a simple lesson to create positive change."



Photos special to Pelahatchie News

Pictured (l to r) are: Author Damon West and John (Bubba) K. Bramlett, Rankin and Madison District Attorney.

Griffin Family Medical Clinic

Mary Ann Griffin, CFNP
Kim Risher
Keli Robertson

507 Hwy 80 West
Pelahatchie, MS 39145
601-854-8002



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Cash or card also accepted.