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Press Release

Winfield native Combs joins Arkansas City Police Department

Combs currently training in the field, set to attend KLETC in mid-September

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (August 4, 2015) — The Arkansas City Police Department's newest police officer is quite familiar with the town he's working in — albeit it from the other side of a heated rivalry.

Winfield native Corey Combs began his employment as a police officer on July 20, but has a lot of work ahead of him before he's ready to enter the field on his own.

Combs, who currently is undergoing field training under the supervision of Master Patrol Officer Nelson Douglas, is set to attend the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in mid-September.

Located near Yoder, 12 miles southeast of Hutchinson, KLETC is where Combs will participate in a 14-week course to teach him all of the basics of becoming a law enforcement officer in Kansas.

KLETC directly trains the overwhelming majority of municipal, county and state law enforcement officers in Kansas, according to the KLETC website, www.kletc.org.

"While he has a long road ahead of him before graduating the academy and completing field training, I think Officer Combs will be a great fit within the department and the community," said Police Chief Dan Ward.

Though he has a long way to go, Combs already is off to a great start, his field supervisor said.

"He's a very quick learner and he's picking up (things) very fast," said Douglas, who has supervised the field training of four other officers. "He's the fastest learner I've ever had."

"After Officer Combs completed his oral interviews, I was told by the board I would like him because he had the right mindset," Ward said. "After spending some time with Officer Combs, I knew the interview board was right."

For immediate release

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Combs attended a junior college for two years and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., where he also played football for the RiverHawks as a long snapper on extra points, field goals and punts.

"I always thought I would enjoy being a police officer," Combs said Monday. "I went to college and I studied criminal justice, and I loved it. I got hooked on it."

"That kind of just made me decide (to become an officer)," Combs added of his collegiate studies.

"I've always thought that it would be a fun, exciting job. You get to help and be a part of the community. I wanted to do that — be a productive part of the town and society."

"Hiring the right person to be an officer is one of the most important tasks I have as a chief," Ward said. "Finding the applicant who understands police work is all about developing good relationships and treating others with respect is the key."

Once he returns from KLETC, Combs will finish out his 14-week field training program with ACPD.

"We've mostly (been on patrol)," he said. "We've been doing night shifts up until (Monday). We've been getting to see a lot of different calls."

Although he still lives in Winfield at this time, Combs said he is attracted to what Arkansas City has to offer, and he definitely plans on a long career with the Ark City Police Department.

"There's definitely a lot of excitement down here and it seems like a great place to work, so I think I'll be here for quite some time," he said. "I just want to get through training and see what happens."

Combs said he was pleased to see a position available in Arkansas City because he wanted to relocate closer to home. An added bonus was that "I'm familiar with Ark City and I like this town," he said.

"It's great so far," Combs said of the camaraderie at the police department. "All the guys get along really great. It's a fun time."

But with football season quickly approaching, Combs faces a real dilemma — Bulldogs or Vikings?

"If they're playing Winfield, I can't guarantee it, but I can definitely go for the Bulldogs (otherwise)," he joked. "They don't play every year anymore. They do play this year. It'll be fun. It'll be interesting."

In his spare time, Combs enjoys bowling at Hillcrest Lanes Bowling Alley, playing recreational softball, working out at the Winfield Recreation Center, and hunting and fishing.

In addition to hunting ducks, quail and pheasants, Combs said he shares an interest with ACPD's Capt. Mark McCaslin and Lt. Anthony Rider in hunting turkeys.