

Eakin Enterprises, Inc., a family owned business

Eakin Enterprises, Inc., in Larned has been a family owned business for more than 60 years. Currently owned and operated by Chad Eakin, the business was founded in 1950 by Chad's grandparents, Wanda and Willis Eakin. Prior to moving to Larned, the Eakins leased a sandpit in Dodge City. In 1957, they purchased a concrete plant in Larned, which was set up east of the train depot. They later moved the plant to the current location one-half mile west of Larned on U.S. Highway 56. The business was

run by Willis and Wanda, with the help of their two sons, Wendell (Chad's father) and Nolan. Chad started helping with the business as a young boy and opened his own construction business while still in high school. Another concrete plant was put into operation in Great Bend in 2001 and in 2004 the Hays Ready-Mix location was added to the growing business. Chad purchased the remainder of the original Larned business from other family members in 2006. The three locations currently employ 45 people. The main

business office is located in Larned, with Chad overseeing the day-to-day services and projects of the work crews. Eakin covers a very large area with a variety of services including sand and gravel, dirt-work, concrete construction, ready-mixed concrete, and construction rental equipment. According to Chad, "customer service is very important to us and going that extra mile for our customers makes a huge difference." Call any of the three Eakin Enterprises, Inc., locations for all your sand, gravel, dirtwork and concrete needs.

Chromotize - custom paint, accessories and more

Chromotize, owned by brothers Marty Mead and Zack Hampton, opened in 2010 after the decided to turn their life long passion of cars into a profession. The shop started out doing the custom chrome finishing and custom painting and has quickly grown to feature almost anything available in the automotive aftermarket industry. Custom paint and body work is offered at Chromotize. Using only top quality Sherwin Williams and Planet Color Automotive paints, and being Sherwin Williams certified, Marty and Zack can make your ride better from a mild fender bender


to a full custom restoration and anything in between. Chromotize offers new tire sales at prices competitive with any other shop in the state. They can even upgrade those stock wheels to a more eye pleasing custom look. A huge assortment of car and truck accessories are available as well, and as exclusive Cattleman Truck Accessories dealer for the

state of Kansas. Chromotize can get you equipped with anything from a grille guard to tool boxes, running boards, performance fuel economy programmers, and much more. Just new this year is the addition of the Hammerhead Armor line of truck and jeep accessories. Stop and see what we can do for you at 117 E. Fifth St. in Larned, or call 620-804-6252.


Fort Larned gets ready for the National Park Service Centennial

Fort Larned had a busy year in 2015 getting ready for the National Park Service's 100th anniversary on August 25, 2016. There has been lots of work planning special events that will be taking place throughout this year, culminating in a "Picnic in the Park" on the anniversary date. Stay tuned for announcements on the special Centennial events and programs that will be offered throughout the year. January and February are always slow times at the fort when the cold winter weather keeps most visitors away. Things picked up in spring, though, with Spring Break visitors and school groups beginning their spring field trips. Last year, Fort Larned received a Ticket to Ride (TTR) grant from the National Park Founda-

tion (NPF), which helped pay the transportation costs for school groups coming to park. The park received \$8000 from the NPF with an additional \$1,500 added by the Fort Larned Old Guard, the park's friends' group. A total of 20 schools took part in the Ticket to Ride program. Fort Larned USD received \$1,000 in TTR funds. The school coming the farthest to attend programs at the fort using TTR funds was Derby, Kansas, 150 miles away. April saw the Fort Larned Old Guard holding their annual meeting, the Mess & Muster, at the fort on April 25. The Old Guard hosted an engaging array of speakers on the evolution of hunting in Central Kansas. The speakers, and topic, were see FORT page 5







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Ike Shaver Plumbing, Inc., service when you need it

Ike Shaver Plumbing, Inc., has been giving "Service When You Need It" since 1962. Ike and Judy Shaver are joined by their sons, Jon and Jay, and grandson Jacob, who are all master plumbers and master mechanical, and four other licensed employees. In the office are Tammy Shaver and Judy Shaver. Sales and service are available for all your plumbing needs including: heating and cooling, reverse osmosis systems, water wells, water pumps and water softeners. Water softeners are also available for rent.

Ike Shaver Plumbing Inc. installs septic systems, sewer lines, and laterals. They will rotor and clean sewer and drain lines. They also sell appliances and plumbing fixtures with service available. Their service area is a 50-mile radius of Larned. Ike, born in Belpre and Judy from Colorado have loved raising their family in Larned. The Shavers and their business have remained staunch supporters of the USD 495 school system and look forward to continued business in Larned.

CHROMOTIZE

OWNERS MARTY MEAD & ZACK HAMPTON
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