

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Following tower upgrades to allow for faster network speeds, Viaero now offers their 4G service throughout much of Chase and Perkins Counties, including the communities of Imperial, Wauneta and Grant.

Lisa Murray, spokesperson for Viaero, said service in Imperial and the area has been fully tested and is now operational.

In the wireless telecommunications realm, 4G represents the latest technology available today.

This fourth generation mobile phone communication technology standard allows for network speeds equal or exceeding wired broadband.

Murray said the upgrade has increased their network data speeds up to 20 times of the speed of their former technology.

Murray noted more than 60 percent of the nation's wireless phone subscribers people now use smartphones.

With the capabilities of smartphones, she said Viaero's increased network speeds provides their customers with a powerful tool.

Because of their network configuration, Viaero customers can talk on the phone while also accessing the Internet. That's not possible with all wireless networks.

To allow customers to take advantage of the 4G network, the company has introduced plans that offer unlimited data.

Murray said people are using more and more data through their smartphones. With an unlimited data plan, she noted people don't need to worry about being charged for data overages.

Viaero Based in Fort Morgan

Viaero is headquartered in Fort Morgan, Colo., and specializes in providing wireless service to rural communities.

The company's president, Frank DiRico, said the company has spent more than \$70 million over the past two years to upgrade many of its areas to 4G.

Rural areas don't get the full attention of national carriers, he noted. So, this upgrade fills the coverage gap for needed high-speed wireless data networks, he said.

Viaero operates in Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and southeast Wyoming.