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Internet provider starting in Williston; *First customers in Levy County may see service in 90 days*



Likwid Communications President Chris Smith is seen in this file photo from November of 2016 just after being interviewed for a story in *HardisonInk.com*.

Story and Photo

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 19, 2018 at 3:07 p.m.

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INVERNESS -- An Inverness-based company that provides fiber optic Internet service may be giving west Williston customers that service in as few as 90 days, according information shared in a telephonic interview with HardisonInk.com on Friday (Jan. 19).

Likwid Communications opened its doors in 2008, and has been providing reliable voice and data services to business interests in Citrus County.

Chris Smith is the president of the company.

Other people in the group are Blake

Johnson for construction; Christopher Haimbauch for sales and marketing; and Blake O'Neal, a technician, Smith said as he updated information taken from the website.

"Depending on how things go with a meeting I am having on Monday (Jan. 22)," Smith said, "we may be able to start putting our lines up next week. Comcast is taking theirs down and we are putting ours up."

Smith said he had offered Comcast the opportunity to let his company accept the Comcast fiber optics on the poles, but the company chose against accepting his offer.

Smith said it will be at least 90 days before the first customers are served out of the data head that is going to be placed in the same area of town as Williston City Hall. Customers on the east side of the railroad tracks may not see service as quickly as that, Smith said, because he believes it may take as long as six months to put a line under the tracks.

Since there are enough people who agreed to use the service when it starts in Williston, the company is ready to move forward there first. Smith said Chiefland is another data head that is planned as a starting point when the take-rate (number contracted subscribers) reaches a point to make this a sustainable business.

As the customers grow out from Williston and Chiefland, Smith said, and then Bronson will be incorporated into the network as well.

As far as other directions leading out from Chiefland, Smith said the company will either go toward Fanning Springs or Cedar Key, depending on which area shows the strongest desire for the service.

The currently monthly rate is \$39.95, Smith said; however if he sees a set of customers with a very low usage amount of data, then he might consider having a lower rate. Likewise, there are

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higher rates for big users going up to \$400 a month.

When Smith was given the rate for MiFi Jetpack fees paid by *HardisonInk.com* for 40 GB a month, he said Likwid Communications could provide a less expensive rate as well as stronger fiber optic service, in contrast with Internet service via cell towers.

However, while the people of western Williston may be served in as few as 90 days -- although perhaps later too -- Smith could not say when (if ever) the fiber optic service would be available in the unrecorded subdivision known as Jemlands.

Smith said he plans to provide a press release in the relatively near future with a timeline for service in Willison.

The best method for people to connect with Likwid Communication is to go to the Home Page of *HardisonInk.com*, scroll down while looking at the right side of that page and click on the ad. Click [HERE](#) for a quick link to that ad.

That will cause the Likwid Communications website to open in separate window.

To read the first story about Likwid Communications wanting to expand to Levy County from Citrus County -- first Published Nov. 17, 2016 -- click [HERE](#).