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**Levy County considered
by fiber optic broadband co.**

High speed Internet service via cable can come to fruition here



President Chris Smith of Likwid Communications Inc. stands in Levy County after a recent interview.

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Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 17, 2016 at 9:07 p.m.

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INVERNESS -- After years of market research and a recent internal feasibility study, Likwid Communications Inc. has decided to expand its existing fiber optic high-speed internet service network into Levy County, according to a press release from the company sent on Thursday night (Nov. 17).

"After successfully servicing our customers for almost a decade, we decided to expand our service area within the Inverness-area, to the south, and to the north," President Chris Smith of Likwid Communications Inc. said.

Previous efforts to bring such services to Levy County have been unsuccessful.

Smith admits challenges exist. Levy County residents and leaders have every reason to be skeptical, he conceded.

"What I know is that Likwid Communications can be successful because of how we approach the challenges we face," Smith said.

The company president said he plans to reach out to all of the municipalities in Levy County,



in no particular order, regardless of how his company was initially received. He intends to offer open lines of communication to elected officials, managers, business owners and individuals.

Lou Newman, chief executive officer and founder of Newman Strategy Group

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"We plan to finance such a network on our own," Smith said, "without placing any financial burden on local governments or taxpayers. We have partnered with

Newman Strategy Group, a comprehensive consulting firm, capable of providing strategic plans, feasibility studies, grant writing services, marketing plans, and public relations services, all under one roof, which increases efficiency while decreasing cost.

"We have our own trenching equipment, our own field staff, and our own fiber," Smith continued, "which makes us the most competitive provider of middle-mile and last-mile project work. We have already done it successfully for years in a neighboring county and survived the Great Recession. We can finally bring reliable high-speed Internet services, without usage caps, to Levy County at competitive prices -- if enough residents and businesses sign pre-commitment contracts."

Likwid Communications Inc. is scheduled to present important public information on Monday (Nov. 21) at 6:30 p.m. during the Bronson Town Council meeting; and on Tuesday (Nov. 22) at 9 a.m. at the Levy County Board of County Commissioners meeting; and later on Tuesday (Nov. 22) at 7 p.m. at the Williston City Council meeting; and on Monday, Nov. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chiefland City Commission meeting, Smith said.