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## Kelly Runnels wins a 3D printer with his invention



**Kelly Runnels sits next to the box holding his prize. in the background, his invention display is on the table.**

*Photo Provided By Levy County Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Jenny Rodgers.*

**By Jeff M. Hardison © June 7, 2018 at 2:38 p.m.**

**LEVY COUNTY** – Kelly Runnels was the top winner from Levy County in the 2018 Invention Convention held by the Putnam Alachua Levy Cooperative, according to information in a press release from Levy County Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Jenny Rodgers.



**(from left) Kelly Runnels Inglis Mayor Drinda Merritt and Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks are seen at the A.F. Knotts Public Library in Yankeetown.**

*Photo Provided By Levy County Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Jenny Rodgers.*

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**Kelly Runnels watches his new 3D printer create an object.**

*Photo Provided By Levy County Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Jenny Rodgers.*



**A finished product is seen from the 3D printer.**

*Photo Provided By Levy County Library System Youth Services-IT Manager Jenny Rodgers.*

Runnels invention "Electric Car Charger System" was selected as the Levy County winner, Rodgers said. He was presented with the grand prize of a 3D printer by Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks and Inglis Mayor Drinda Merritt.

The young man took the printer home and had his first print completed within an hour, Rodgers said.

The 2018 Invention Convention was a Putnam-Alachua-Levy Libraries Cooperative venture, however only the libraries in Levy and Putnam counties participated this year.

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The contest started March 12 and ended April 14. Every single Levy County participant won a prize, even if the prize was a candy bar.

There are top prizes, though, far beyond edible candy.

Prizes will be awarded at each of Levy County's five public libraries -- A.F. Knotts Public Library (Yankeetown), Bronson Public Library, Cedar Key Public Library, Luther Callaway Public Library (Chiefland) and Williston Public Library.

At each library there will be winners in two age categories. The age divisions are 6 to 10 years old, and 11 to 18 years old.

The five first place winners in the 6- to 10-year range at the county level won a 3-D Doodler Pen. The five first place winners in the 11- to 18-year range at the county level won a Kindle Fire Tablet.

The first-place winner in the two-county contest won a 3-D printer, and Runnels was the winner from Levy County.

The Make Life Easier Invention Convention competition was at the five public libraries in Levy County as well as the libraries in Putnam County. There were two ways to compete. The participant either told about their creative and innovative idea or invention to make life easier; or they told about their favorite inventor (living or historical) or their favorite invention.

The 2018 Putnam-Levy Invention convention was a success, Rodgers said. Both Levy and Putnam counties received amazing entries from children and teenagers, Rodgers said. Each of Levy County's branch libraries had finalists that went on to compete by video against Putnam County's branch finalists.

The finalists from Levy County were:

Luther Callaway (Chiefland) Public Library Teen Winner (and Levy County Winner)  
Kelly Runnels

A.F Knotts (Yankeetown) Public Library Teen Winner Misti Brice

Bronson Public Library Elementary Winner (it was a tie) Chanson Dasher

Bronson Public Library Elementary Winner (it was a tie) Micah Dasher

Bronson Public Library Teen Winner Patrick "P.J." Whitehead

Bronson Public Library Teen Second Place Winner Madison Dasher

Cedar Key Public Library Elementary Winner Reese Solowski

Cedar Key Public Library Teen Winner Madison Brice

Williston Public Library Elementary Winner Trace Klemencic

Williston Public Library Second Place Elementary Winner Hannah Klemencic

Williston Public Library Teen Winner Leah Stringer