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For More Information Contact:
Susan Rak-Blanchard
Director, Communications & Marketing
251.431.8641

Mobile Area Chamber Names the Finalists for Small Business of the Year

Today, **Blue Fish**, **Harper Technologies** and **Lagniappe** were named finalists for the Mobile Area Chamber's 2018 Small Business of the Year. The winner will be revealed at a breakfast meeting on Thursday, Aug. 23. The three companies were selected by a panel of judges and were announced this morning during the Chamber's board of directors meeting.

The Chamber defines a small business as one with 100 or less employees – although the companies employ 25 combined. Finalists were chosen based on five primary criteria:

- **Staying Power** - proof of growth, expansion, reputation and good business practices;
- **Economic Impact** - evidence of job creation and revenue and profit;
- **Innovation** - illustrating creativity and ingenuity;
- **Community Contribution** - either financially or encouraging/allowing employees to participate; and
- **Strategy** - future growth plans with specific and measurable goals.

Meet our finalists:



Blue Fish

Head of Firm: Marcus Neto, owner/creative director

Founded: 2008

Number of Employees: 6

Address: 412 Dauphin St.

About: Blue Fish began eight years ago as an advertising agency specializing in branding and digital advertising. The company recently added content strategy, social media management, email marketing and video production services, as well as produces educational content via webcasts and podcasts.



Harper Technologies

Head of Firm: Abe Harper Jr., president

Founded: 2004

Number of Employees: 7

Address: 50 N. Broad St.

About: Harper Technologies is a comprehensive IT support and consulting firm. Starting out with primarily residential customers, the company quickly expanded into the business sector and now focuses on serving the IT needs of small- to medium-sized companies, nonprofits and local government entities.

Lagniappe

Head of Firm: Ashley Trice, co-publisher/editor and Rob Holbert, co-publisher

Founded: 2002

Number of Employees: 12

Address: 704 Government St.

About: Lagniappe describes itself as an alternative newspaper, and in 2002 published 5,000 copies every two weeks featuring arts and entertainment news. The paper has since expanded into investigative reporting, covering local municipalities and other topics, and in 2014 began publishing weekly, with a current circulation of 30,000 copies.



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