



Lee Enterprises Reports Revenue Statistics

May 20, 2002

DAVENPORT, Iowa, May 20, 2002 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Lee Enterprises, Incorporated (NYSE:LEE), reported today that same-property publishing revenue decreased 1.9 percent for March and April combined, reflecting a continuing gradual improvement in the advertising climate.

Separate March and April comparisons with a year ago are distorted by the movement of Easter Sunday. An extra Sunday fell in March this year and in April a year ago.

For the two months combined, excluding the effects of acquisitions and divestitures, total advertising revenue decreased 2.1 percent compared with the previous year:

PUBLISHING REVENUE			
Same Property, Operating Basis			
2002 vs. 2001			
	March	April	Combined
Advertising:			
Retail.....	10.0 %	(6.5)%	1.3 %
National.....	(6.5)	(7.7)	(7.1)
Classified Advertising			
Daily Newspapers			
Employment.....	(12.2)	(27.8)	(20.6)
Automotive.....	(2.5)	(2.7)	(2.6)
Real Estate.....	6.0	(2.8)	1.3
All Other.....	0.7	(0.4)	0.1
Alternative Publications...	1.2	(0.7)	0.2
Total Classified.....	(2.9)	(10.3)	(6.7)
Total Advertising.....	4.3	(8.0)	(2.1)
Circulation.....	7.4	(6.2)	0.4
Online.....	19.5	22.0	20.8
Other.....	(7.2)	(3.3)	(5.4)
Total Publishing Revenue.....	3.1	(6.6)	(1.9)

Overall revenue grew 37.3 percent for the month of April. The acquisition of Howard Publications, which closed April 1, accounts for substantially all of the revenue related to acquired properties in the month.

Mary Junck, chairman and chief executive officer, said the transition has been upbeat as well as rapid for the 16 newspapers that joined Lee. "We continue to be impressed with the talent and enthusiasm of the people at our new papers," she said. "We've also been impressed with the good condition of the properties, the quality of the newspapers and their strong market positions."

She added: "From the first day, our new people showed they were ready to begin applying Lee's five top priorities - pushing revenue, improving readership and circulation, emphasizing strong local news, growing online, and exercising careful cost controls. These priorities have worked well for us, especially this past year. We've had vigorous revenue performance even during this downturn in the economy, and we've again posted circulation growth that stands out in the industry."

In the Audit Bureau of Circulations six-month averages for March 31, Lee's newspapers posted gains of 1.8 percent daily and 0.4 percent on Sunday compared with a year ago.

Lee Enterprises is based in Davenport, Iowa. It owns 38 daily newspapers and a joint interest in seven others. Lee also owns nearly 200 weekly newspapers, shoppers and classified and specialty publications, along with associated online services. Its stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol LEE. More information about Lee Enterprises is available at www.lee.net.

The April and year-to-date statistical information follows.

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a "Safe Harbor" for forward-looking statements. This release contains information that may be deemed forward-looking and that is based largely on the Company's current expectations and is

subject to certain risks, trends and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated. Among such risks, trends and other uncertainties are changes in advertising demand, newsprint prices, interest rates, labor costs, legislative and regulatory rulings and other results of operations or financial conditions, difficulties in integration of acquired business or maintaining employee and customer relationships and increased capital and other costs. The words "may," "will," "would," "could," "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "projects," "considers" and similar expressions generally identify forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements, which are made as of the date of this release. The Company does not publicly undertake to update or revise its forward-looking statements.

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED
Revenue and Statistical Summary
April 2002
(Unaudited)

(Thousands)	Publishing Revenue -- Operating Basis (1)			Year To Date		
	April					
	2002	2001	%	2002	2001	%
	(2)	(2)(3)		(2)	(2)(3)	
Advertising						
Retail.....	\$16,194	\$17,323	(6.5)%	\$118,191	\$120,567	(2.0)%
National.....	957	1,037	(7.7)	7,237	7,865	(8.0)
Classified:						
Daily Newspapers:						
Employment...	2,715	3,759	(27.8)	17,453	24,539	(28.9)
Automotive...	2,292	2,356	(2.7)	15,503	15,471	0.2
Real Estate..	1,843	1,896	(2.8)	11,915	11,757	1.3
All Other....	1,745	1,752	(0.4)	11,275	10,485	7.5
Alternative publications.	1,738	1,751	(0.7)	11,793	11,847	(0.5)
	10,333	11,514	(10.3)	67,939	74,099	(8.3)
	27,484	29,874	(8.0)	193,367	202,531	(4.5)
Circulation.....	8,345	8,892	(6.2)	59,520	60,084	(0.9)
Online.....	654	536	22.0	4,003	3,357	19.2
Other.....	5,969	6,174	(3.3)	42,334	45,183	(6.3)
Total -- Same Property Operating Basis.....	42,452	45,476	(6.6)	299,224	311,155	(3.8)
Equity Basis Adjustment.....	(7,768)	(8,439)	NM	(55,196)	(59,354)	NM
Acquired/Divested Properties and Other.....	17,357	875	NM	19,703	6,790	NM
	\$52,041	\$37,912	37.3	\$263,731	\$258,591	2.0

Daily Newspaper Advertising -- Operating Basis (1)
April Year To Date

(Thousands of Inches)	April			Year To Date		
	2002	2001	%	2002	2001	%
	(2)	(2)(3)		(2)	(2)(3)	
Retail.....	554	602	(8.0)%	4,180	4,398	(5.0)%
National.....	30	32	(6.3)	221	245	(9.8)
Classified.....	568	553	2.7	3,697	3,735	(1.0)
	1,152	1,187	(2.9)	8,098	8,378	(3.3)

Notes to Revenue and Statistical Summary:

(1) Operating basis includes 100% of the revenue and statistical

information of Madison Newspapers, Inc., (MNI) which for financial reporting purposes is reported using the equity method of accounting. Lee owns 50% of the stock of MNI.

- (2) The month had one more Tuesday and one fewer Sunday than a year ago. The year to date has one more Tuesday and one fewer Sunday than a year ago.
- (3) Previously reported data has been restated for comparative purposes to exclude acquired/divested properties.
- (4) The Company's fiscal year ends on September 30.
- (5) The Company disclaims responsibility for updating information beyond release date.

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