



Lee Enterprises Reports Revenue Growth in July

August 15, 2005

DAVENPORT, Iowa--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 15, 2005--Lee Enterprises, Incorporated (NYSE:LEE), today reported same property revenue increases in July, a result of improved sales and an additional Sunday compared with a year ago.

On a same property(3) basis, which excludes the impact of acquisitions and divestitures made in the current or prior year, total advertising revenue increased 10.7 percent and operating revenue increased 9.0 percent. Including the effect of acquisitions and divestitures, total advertising revenue increased 91.9 percent, and total operating revenue increased 83.4 percent, due primarily to the acquisition of Pulitzer Inc. in June 2005.

Same property retail advertising revenue increased 9.8 percent. Classified advertising revenue increased 9.9 percent, with employment up 29.5 percent, automotive down 2.8 percent, real estate up 20.5 percent, other newspaper classified categories down 3.1 percent, and classified in non-daily publications down 1.5 percent. National advertising revenue increased 23.7 percent. Niche publication revenue decreased 3.4 percent, a continuing influence of the loss of a large contracted publication in one market. Online advertising revenue, which is not affected by Sunday exchanges, increased 37.7 percent. Circulation revenue, which is affected by the additional Sunday this year, increased 4.6 percent.

The additional Sunday this year distorts a direct comparison with July 2004 because Sundays generate substantially more revenue than any other day of the week. Lee's revenue growth in July can be evaluated in a more meaningful way by considering it in combination with August results, as August has one fewer Sunday in 2005 than in 2004. Combined, July and August have nine Sundays in both 2005 and 2004. Lee's revenue statistics for August are scheduled to be released Sept. 15 and will include a table combining July and August results to eliminate the effect of the Sunday exchanges.

PULITZER RESULTS

Pulitzer results are reported in statistical periods, which eliminate the effect of Sunday exchanges. For the statistical reporting period ended July 31, 2005, on a same property basis, comparing the current year period to last year, which is before Lee's ownership, Pulitzer advertising revenue decreased 0.4 percent, with total revenue down 0.5 percent. In St. Louis, which was up against its most significant growth relative to the prior year, advertising revenue decreased 2.9 percent due to a soft market for both classified and national advertising, and total revenue was down 2.7 percent. In Pulitzer's other newspapers, on a same property basis, advertising revenue increased 5.4 percent, and total revenue rose 4.9 percent.

In the 50 percent partnership in Tucson, which is accounted for using the equity method and is not included in the Pulitzer revenue described above, advertising revenue for the July statistical reporting period increased 6.9 percent, and total revenue rose 5.5 percent. Strong retail and classified revenue growth offset a decline in national advertising.

Tables follow.

With the acquisition of Pulitzer, Lee owns 52 daily newspapers and a joint interest in six others. Lee also operates associated online services and more than 300 weekly newspapers, shoppers and classified and specialty publications. Lee is based in Davenport, Iowa, and 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.

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED Revenue and Statistical Summary (Unaudited)

OPERATING REVENUE

	July			Year to Date		
(Thousands)	2005	2004	%	2005	2004	%
Advertising revenue:						
Retail.....	\$23,249	\$21,166	9.8 %	\$246,227	\$236,788	4.0 %
National.....	1,456	1,177	23.7	17,008	14,912	14.1
Classified:						
Daily newspapers:						
Employment...	5,027	3,882	29.5	41,914	35,802	17.1
Automotive...	3,541	3,642	(2.8)	32,741	33,779	(3.1)
Real estate..	3,613	2,998	20.5	31,167	27,728	12.4
All other....	2,060	2,127	(3.1)	19,785	20,321	(2.6)

Other publications.	2,949	2,993	(1.5)	27,302	26,921	1.4

Total classified revenue.....	17,190	15,642	9.9	152,909	144,551	5.8
Niche publications..	873	904	(3.4)	9,278	9,099	2.0
Online.....	1,348	979	37.7	11,921	8,946	33.3

Total advertising revenue.....	44,116	39,868	10.7	437,343	414,296	5.6
Circulation.....	11,038	10,549	4.6	106,239	108,005	(1.6)
Commercial printing.....	1,274	1,413	(9.8)	16,681	16,327	2.2
Online services and other.....	2,073	1,844	12.4	21,758	19,781	10.0

Total same property operating revenue.....	58,501	53,674	9.0	582,021	558,409	4.2
Acquisitions & divestitures...	41,722	979	NM	88,836	5,538	NM

Total operating revenue.....	\$100,223	\$54,653	83.4 %	\$670,857	\$563,947	19.0 %
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DAILY NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING VOLUME

	July			Year to Date		
(Thousands of Inches)	2005	2004	%	2005	2004	%

Retail.....	831	818	1.6 %	8,743	8,927	(2.1)%
National.....	44	42	4.8	479	454	5.5
Classified.....	1,075	998	7.7	9,632	8,950	7.6

Total, same property.....	1,950	1,858	5.0 %	18,854	18,331	2.9 %
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NOTES:

- (1) The month had one more Sunday and one fewer Thursday than the prior period. The year to date had one more Sunday and one fewer Wednesday and Thursday than the prior period.
- (2) Certain amounts as previously reported have been reclassified to conform with the current period presentation. The prior period has been restated for comparative purposes, and the reclassifications have no impact on earnings.
- (3) Same property comparisons exclude acquisitions and divestitures made in the current and prior year. Same property revenue also excludes revenue of Madison Newspapers, Inc. (MNI), in which Lee owns a 50% share, and Lee's 50% newspaper partnership in TNI Partners in Tucson. Both are reported using the equity method of accounting. Same property comparisons also exclude corporate office costs.
- (4) The Company's fiscal year ends on September 30.

(5) The Company disclaims responsibility for updating information beyond the release date.

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 businesses 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.

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