



Lee Enterprises Reports Ad Revenue Growth in September

November 14, 2005

DAVENPORT, Iowa, Nov 14, 2005 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Lee Enterprises, Incorporated (NYSE:LEE), reported today that same property advertising revenue in September increased 3.2 percent over a year ago.

On a same property(3) basis, which excludes the impact of acquisitions and divestitures made in the current or prior year, retail advertising revenue increased 2.6 percent. Classified advertising revenue increased 2.6 percent, with employment up 13.7 percent, automotive down 11.7 percent, real estate up 12.1 percent, other newspaper classified categories down 10.8 percent, and classified in non-daily publications up 6.5 percent. National advertising revenue increased 8.2 percent. Niche publication revenue decreased 6.1 percent, and online advertising revenue increased 32.5 percent. Circulation revenue decreased 3.1 percent.

Total same property operating revenue increased 1.9 percent. Including the effect of acquisitions and divestitures, total advertising revenue increased 67.6 percent, and total operating revenue increased 61.6 percent, due primarily to the acquisition of Pulitzer Inc. in June 2005.

PULITZER RESULTS

Pulitzer results are reported in statistical periods. For the statistical reporting period ended Sept. 25, 2005, on a same property basis, comparing the current year period to last year, which is before Lee's ownership, Pulitzer advertising revenue increased 1.0 percent, with total revenue up 0.4 percent. In St. Louis, advertising revenue increased 0.2 percent, and total revenue was down 0.6 percent. In Pulitzer's other newspapers, on a same property basis, advertising revenue increased 2.9 percent, and total revenue rose 3.0 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 September statistical reporting period increased 5.5 percent, and total revenue climbed 4.3 percent.

Tables follow.

Lee Enterprises is a premier publisher of newspapers in midsize markets, with 52 dailies and a joint interest in six others, a rapidly growing online business and more than 300 weekly newspapers and specialty publications in 23 states. Lee's newspapers have circulation of 1.7 million daily and 1.9 million Sunday, reaching more than four million readers daily, and its weekly publications have distribution of more than 4.5 million households. Lee's newspapers include such diverse markets as Napa, Calif.; Bloomington, Ill.; Billings, Mont.; Escondido, Calif.; Madison, Wis.; and St. Louis, Mo. Lee is based in Davenport, Iowa, and its stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol LEE. For more information about Lee Enterprises, please visit www.lee.net.

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED
Revenue and Statistical Summary
(Unaudited)

OPERATING REVENUE

(Thousands)	September			Year to Date		
	2005	2004	%	2005	2004	%
Advertising revenue:						
Retail.....	\$24,779	\$24,150	2.6 %	\$295,599	\$285,538	3.5 %
National.....	1,637	1,513	8.2	20,074	17,858	12.4
Classified:						
Daily newspapers:						
Employment...	4,584	4,032	13.7	51,566	44,414	16.1
Automotive...	3,128	3,542	(11.7)	39,088	40,849	(4.3)
Real estate..	3,286	2,931	12.1	37,877	34,003	11.4
All other....	2,159	2,420	(10.8)	24,081	25,212	(4.5)
Other publications.	2,821	2,650	6.5	32,595	32,117	1.5
Total classified revenue.....	15,978	15,575	2.6	185,207	176,595	4.9
Niche publications..	1,277	1,360	(6.1)	11,223	11,103	1.1

Online.....	1,411	1,065	32.5	14,834	11,088	33.8

Total advertising revenue.....	45,082	43,663	3.2	526,937	502,182	4.9
Circulation.....	10,217	10,545	(3.1)	126,953	129,780	(2.2)
Commercial printing.....	1,580	1,895	(16.6)	19,876	19,926	(0.3)
Online services and other.....	2,171	1,854	17.1	25,775	23,524	9.6

Total same property operating revenue.....	59,050	57,957	1.9	699,541	675,412	3.6
Acquisitions & divestitures...	36,614	1,233	NM	161,318	7,912	NM

Total operating revenue.....	\$95,664	\$59,190	61.6 %	\$860,859	\$683,324	26.0 %
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DAILY NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING VOLUME

(Thousands of Inches)	September			Year to Date		
	2005	2004	%	2005	2004	%
Retail.....	884	867	2.0 %	10,463	10,656	(1.8) %
National.....	43	42	2.4	561	537	4.5
Classified.....	1,020	977	4.4	11,700	10,942	6.9

Total, same property.....	1,947	1,886	3.2 %	22,724	22,135	2.7 %
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LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED
Revenue and Statistical Summary
(Unaudited)

OPERATING REVENUE

(Thousands)	Three Months Ended Sept. 30		
	2005	2004	%

Advertising revenue:			
Retail.....	\$ 72,263	\$ 69,565	3.9 %
National.....	4,522	4,123	9.7
Classified:			
Daily newspapers:			
Employment.....	14,679	12,494	17.5
Automotive.....	9,888	10,712	(7.7)
Real estate.....	10,323	9,273	11.3
All other.....	6,356	7,018	(9.4)
Other publications.....	8,599	8,538	0.7

Total classified revenue..	49,845	48,035	3.8
Niche publications.....	2,818	2,908	(3.1)
Online.....	4,261	3,118	36.7

Total advertising revenue...	133,709	127,749	4.7
Circulation.....	31,752	32,324	(1.8)
Commercial printing.....	4,469	5,012	(10.8)
Online services and other...	6,090	5,595	8.8

Total same property operating revenue.....	176,020	170,680	3.1
Acquisitions & divestitures.....	114,204	3,350	NM

Total operating revenue	290,224	174,030	66.8 %
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DAILY NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING VOLUME

Three Months Ended Sept. 30

(Thousands of Inches)	2005	2004	%
Retail.....	2,551	2,547	0.2 %
National.....	126	125	0.8
Classified.....	3,143	2,990	5.1

Total, same property.....	5,820	5,662	2.8 %
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NOTES:

- (1) September had one more Friday and one fewer Wednesday than the prior period. The quarter had one more Friday and one fewer Thursday than the prior period. The year had one more Friday 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.

SOURCE: Lee Enterprises

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