

LEE ENTERPRISES, INC  
Form 10-Q  
August 07, 2015

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For The Quarterly Period Ended June 28, 2015

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File Number 1-6227  
LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its Charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

42-0823980  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

201 N. Harrison Street, Suite 600, Davenport, Iowa 52801  
(Address of principal executive offices)

(563) 383-2100  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and small reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>

Edgar Filing: LEE ENTERPRISES, INC - Form 10-Q

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).  
Yes [ ] No [X]

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Sections 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the distribution of securities under a plan confirmed by a court. Yes [X] No [ ]

As of July 31, 2015, 54,551,666 shares of Common Stock of the Registrant were outstanding.

---

	PAGE
Table Of Contents	
FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS	<u>1</u>
PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION	<u>2</u>
Item 1.    Financial Statements (Unaudited)	<u>2</u>
Consolidated Balance Sheets - June 28, 2015 and September 28, 2014	<u>2</u>
Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Operations - 13 weeks and 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014	<u>4</u>
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows - 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014	<u>5</u>
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	<u>6</u>
Item 2.    Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	<u>20</u>
Item 3.    Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	<u>38</u>
Item 4.    Controls and Procedures	<u>38</u>
PART II OTHER INFORMATION	<u>39</u>
Item 1.    Legal Proceedings	<u>39</u>
Item 6.    Exhibits	<u>39</u>
SIGNATURES	<u>40</u>

Table of Contents

References to “we”, “our”, “us” and the like throughout this document refer to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated (the “Company”). References to “2015”, “2014” and the like refer to the fiscal years ended the last Sunday in September.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a “safe harbor” for forward-looking statements. This report contains information that may be deemed forward-looking that is based largely on our 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, which in some instances are beyond our control, are:

- Our ability to generate cash flows and maintain liquidity sufficient to service our debt;
- Our ability to comply with the financial covenants in our credit facilities;
- Our ability to refinance our debt as it comes due;
- That the warrants issued in our refinancing will not be exercised;
- The impact and duration of adverse conditions in certain aspects of the economy affecting our business;
- Changes in advertising demand;
- Potential changes in newsprint, other commodities and energy costs;
- Interest rates;
- Labor costs;
- Legislative and regulatory rulings;
- Our ability to achieve planned expense reductions;
- Our ability to maintain employee and customer relationships;
- Our ability to manage increased capital costs;
- Our ability to maintain our listing status on the NYSE;
- Competition; and
- Other risks detailed from time to time in our publicly filed documents.

Any statements that are not statements of historical fact (including statements containing the words “may”, “will”, “would”, “could”, “believes”, “expects”, “anticipates”, “intends”, “plans”, “projects”, “considers” and similar expressions) generally should be considered 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 report. We do not undertake to publicly update or revise our forward-looking statements, except as required by law.

Table of ContentsPART I  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Financial Statements

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(Unaudited)

(Thousands of Dollars)	June 28 2015	September 28 2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	18,904	16,704
Accounts receivable, net	57,712	62,343
Income taxes receivable	48	620
Inventories	4,737	6,655
Deferred income taxes	1,229	1,228
Other	9,275	8,585
Total current assets	91,905	96,135
Investments:		
Associated companies	35,791	37,790
Other	10,177	10,661
Total investments	45,968	48,451
Property and equipment:		
Land and improvements	23,211	23,645
Buildings and improvements	180,611	180,570
Equipment	289,814	292,209
Construction in process	3,321	4,548
	496,957	500,972
Less accumulated depreciation	348,442	343,601
Property and equipment, net	148,515	157,371
Goodwill	243,729	243,729
Other intangible assets, net	192,383	212,657
Postretirement assets, net	15,211	14,136
Debt financing costs and other	34,887	38,796
Total assets	772,598	811,275

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.



Table of Contents

(Thousands of Dollars and Shares, Except Per Share Data)	June 28 2015	September 28 2014	
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>			
Current liabilities:			
Current maturities of long-term debt	32,900	31,400	
Accounts payable	18,530	27,245	
Compensation and other accrued liabilities	24,109	24,348	
Accrued interest	14,184	4,812	
Unearned revenue	30,322	30,903	
Total current liabilities	120,045	118,708	
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	712,100	773,350	
Pension obligations	47,540	50,170	
Postretirement and postemployment benefit obligations	10,582	10,359	
Deferred income taxes	22,618	14,766	
Income taxes payable	5,689	5,097	
Warrants and other	16,519	16,369	
Total liabilities	935,093	988,819	
Equity (deficit):			
Stockholders' equity (deficit):			
Serial convertible preferred stock, no par value; authorized 500 shares; none issued	—	—	
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value; authorized 120,000 shares; issued and outstanding:	547	537	
June 28, 2015; 54,749 shares;			
September 28, 2014; 53,747 shares			
Class B Common Stock, \$2 par value; authorized 30,000 shares; none issued	—	—	
Additional paid-in capital	247,408	245,323	
Accumulated deficit	(400,847)	(414,282)	)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(10,407)	(9,831)	)
Total stockholders' deficit	(163,299)	(178,253)	)
Non-controlling interests	804	709	
Total deficit	(162,495)	(177,544)	)
Total liabilities and deficit	772,598	811,275	

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.





Table of Contents

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
(Unaudited)

(Thousands of Dollars, Except Per Common Share Data)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended	
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015	June 29 2014
Operating revenue:				
Advertising and marketing services	100,490	110,284	313,632	335,394
Subscription	47,394	43,339	145,904	130,744
Other	9,662	9,502	29,693	28,465
Total operating revenue	157,546	163,125	489,229	494,603
Operating expenses:				
Compensation	58,442	60,330	181,615	181,543
Newsprint and ink	7,421	9,224	23,928	29,120
Other operating expenses	55,405	53,840	170,426	161,708
Depreciation	4,559	5,293	13,860	15,700
Amortization of intangible assets	6,836	6,901	20,597	20,710
Loss (gain) on sales of assets, net	686	9	434	(1,622)
Impairment of goodwill and other assets	—	336	—	336
Workforce adjustments	1,057	419	1,908	925
Total operating expenses	134,406	136,352	412,768	408,420
Equity in earnings of associated companies	1,705	1,836	6,114	6,348
Operating income	24,845	28,609	82,575	92,531
Non-operating income (expense):				
Financial income	79	85	258	306
Interest expense	(18,121)	)(19,654)	)(55,314)	)(61,033)
Debt financing costs and amortization	(1,445)	)(21,732)	)(4,040)	)(21,935)
Other, net	(1,082)	)(1,701)	)58	(1,579)
Total non-operating expense, net	(20,569)	)(43,002)	)(59,038)	)(84,241)
Income (loss) before income taxes	4,276	(14,393)	)23,537	8,290
Income tax expense (benefit)	2,141	(4,882)	)9,353	3,995
Net income (loss)	2,135	(9,511)	)14,184	4,295
Net income attributable to non-controlling interests	(253)	)(235)	)(749)	)(663)
Income (loss) attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated	1,882	(9,746)	)13,435	3,632
Other comprehensive loss, net of income taxes	(192)	)(441)	)(576)	)(1,324)
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated	1,690	(10,187)	)12,859	2,308
Earnings (loss) per common share:				
Basic:	0.04	(0.19)	)0.26	0.07
Diluted:	0.03	(0.19)	)0.25	0.07

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Unaudited)

(Thousands of Dollars)	39 Weeks Ended	
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014
Cash provided by operating activities:		
Net income	14,184	4,295
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	34,457	36,410
Loss (gain) on sales of assets, net	434	(1,622)
Impairment of goodwill and other assets	—	336
Amortization of debt present value adjustment	—	2,394
Stock compensation expense	1,645	1,081
Distributions greater than earnings of MNI	1,699	1,518
Deferred income tax expense	8,251	281
Debt financing costs	4,040	21,935
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in receivables	4,631	1,638
Decrease (increase) in inventories and other	596	(502)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable, compensation and other accrued liabilities and unearned revenue	(163)	)1,097
Decrease in pension, postretirement and postemployment benefit obligations	(4,458)	)4,858
Change in income taxes receivable or payable	1,164	7,324
Other, net	(331)	)1,744
Net cash provided by operating activities	66,149	69,583
Cash provided by (required for) investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(7,686)	)8,204
Decrease in restricted cash	441	—
Proceeds from sales of assets	3,341	2,192
Distributions greater (less) than earnings of TNI	300	(211)
Other, net	(323)	)—
Net cash required for investing activities	(3,927)	)6,223
Cash provided by (required for) financing activities:		
Proceeds from long-term debt	5,000	800,000
Payments on long-term debt	(64,750)	)832,500
Debt financing costs paid	(477)	)31,276
Common stock transactions, net	205	612
Net cash required for financing activities	(60,022)	)63,164
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,200	196
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Beginning of period	16,704	17,562
End of period	18,904	17,758

The accompanying Notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.



Table of Contents

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED  
 NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 (Unaudited)

## 1 BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying unaudited, interim, Consolidated Financial Statements included herein have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission for quarterly reports. In the opinion of management, these financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting of only normal recurring items) necessary to present fairly the financial position of Lee Enterprises, Incorporated and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of June 28, 2015 and their results of operations and cash flows for the periods presented. The Consolidated Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto included in the Company's 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Because of seasonal and other factors, the results of operations for the 13 weeks and 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

References to "we", "our", "us" and the like throughout the Consolidated Financial Statements refer to the Company. References to "2015", "2014" and the like refer to the fiscal years ended the last Sunday in September.

The Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of our subsidiaries, all of which are wholly-owned, except for our 50% interest in TNI Partners ("TNI"), 50% interest in Madison Newspapers, Inc. ("MNI") and 82.5% interest in INN Partners, L.C. ("TownNews").

Investments in TNI and MNI are accounted for using the equity method and are reported at cost, plus our share of undistributed earnings since acquisition less, for TNI, amortization of intangible assets.

## 2 INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATED COMPANIES

## TNI Partners

In Tucson, Arizona, TNI, acting as agent for our subsidiary, Star Publishing Company ("Star Publishing"), and Citizen Publishing Company ("Citizen"), a subsidiary of Gannett Co. Inc., is responsible for printing, delivery, advertising, and subscription activities of the Arizona Daily Star as well as the related digital platforms and specialty publications. TNI collects all receipts and income and pays substantially all operating expenses incident to the partnership's operations and publication of the newspapers and other media.

Income or loss of TNI (before income taxes) is allocated equally to Star Publishing and Citizen.

Summarized results of TNI are as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended	
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015	June 29 2014
Operating revenue	13,063	13,750	43,035	44,888
Operating expenses, excluding workforce adjustments, depreciation and amortization	10,936	11,449	34,783	36,116
Workforce adjustments	—	—	—	(87
Operating income	2,127	2,301	8,252	8,859

Edgar Filing: LEE ENTERPRISES, INC - Form 10-Q

Company's 50% share of operating income	1,064	1,150	4,127	4,429
Less amortization of intangible assets	105	104	314	313
Equity in earnings of TNI	959	1,046	3,813	4,116

Star Publishing's 50% share of TNI depreciation and certain general and administrative expenses (income) associated with its share of the operation and administration of TNI are reported as operating expenses (benefit) in our Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income. These amounts totaled \$45,000

6

---

Table of Contents

and \$(17,000) in the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, respectively, and totaled \$(153,000) and \$(51,000) in the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014, respectively.

Annual amortization of intangible assets is estimated to be \$418,000 in each of the 52 week periods ending June 2016, June 2017, June 2018 and the 53 week period ending June 2019 and \$314,000 in the 52 week period ending June 2020.

Madison Newspapers, Inc.

We have a 50% ownership interest in MNI, which publishes daily and Sunday newspapers, and other publications in Madison, Wisconsin, and other Wisconsin locations, and operates their related digital platforms. Net income or loss of MNI (after income taxes) is allocated equally to us and The Capital Times Company ("TCT"). MNI conducts its business under the trade name Capital Newspapers.

Summarized results of MNI are as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended	
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015	June 29 2014
Operating revenue	16,580	17,278	51,258	50,710
Operating expenses, excluding workforce adjustments, depreciation and amortization	13,518	14,390	42,328	42,246
Workforce adjustments	261	15	318	244
Depreciation and amortization	463	384	1,390	1,179
Operating income	2,338	2,489	7,222	7,041
Net income	1,491	1,579	4,603	4,464
Equity in earnings of MNI	746	790	2,301	2,232

### 3 GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill are as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)	39 Weeks Ended June 28 2015	)
Goodwill, gross amount	1,532,458	
Accumulated impairment losses	(1,288,729)	
Goodwill, beginning of period	243,729	
Goodwill, end of period	243,729	

Table of Contents

Identified intangible assets consist of the following:

(Thousands of Dollars)	June 28 2015	September 28 2014
Nonamortized intangible assets:		
Mastheads	25,102	25,102
Amortizable intangible assets:		
Customer and newspaper subscriber lists	687,055	686,732
Less accumulated amortization	519,774	499,178
	167,281	187,554
Noncompete and consulting agreements	28,524	28,524
Less accumulated amortization	28,524	28,523
	—	1
Other intangible assets, net	192,383	212,657

Annual amortization of intangible assets for the 52 week periods ending June 2016, June 2017, June 2018, the 53 week period ending June 2019 and the 52 week period ending June 2020, is estimated to be \$26,334,000, \$25,166,000, \$18,685,000, \$16,321,000 and \$15,249,000, respectively.

## 4 DEBT

In January 2012, in conjunction with the effectiveness of our plan of reorganization (the "Plan") under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, we refinanced all of our debt. The Plan refinanced our then-existing credit agreement and extended the April 2012 maturity in a structure of first-priority and second-priority lien debt with the existing lenders. We also amended the Pulitzer Notes, as discussed more fully below (and certain capitalized terms used below defined), and extended the April 2012 maturity with the existing Noteholders.

In May 2013, we again refinanced the \$94,000,000 remaining balance of the Pulitzer Notes (the "New Pulitzer Notes").

On March 31, 2014, we completed a comprehensive refinancing of our debt, exclusive of the New Pulitzer Notes (the "2014 Refinancing"), which included the following:

- \$400,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 9.5% Senior Secured Notes (the "Notes"), pursuant to an Indenture dated as of March 31, 2014 (the "Indenture") among the Company, certain subsidiaries party thereto from time to time (the "Subsidiary Guarantors"), U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Collateral Agent (the "Notes Collateral Agent");

\$250,000,000 first lien term loan (the "1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan") and \$40,000,000 revolving facility (the "Revolving Facility") under a First Lien Credit Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (together the "1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility") among the Company, the lenders party thereto from time to time (the "1<sup>st</sup> Lien Lenders"), and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent (the "1<sup>st</sup> Lien Collateral Agent"); and

\$150,000,000 second lien term loan under a Second Lien Loan Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the "2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan") among the Company, the lenders party thereto from time to time (the "2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Lenders"), and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent (the "2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Collateral Agent").

The Notes, 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan enabled us to repay in full, including accrued interest, and terminate, on March 31, 2014: (i) the remaining principal balance of \$593,000,000 under our previous 1<sup>st</sup> lien agreement, and related subsidiary guaranty, security and pledge agreements, intercompany subordination and

intercreditor agreements; and (ii) the remaining principal balance of \$175,000,000 under our previous 2<sup>nd</sup> lien agreement, and related subsidiary guaranty, security and pledge agreements, intercompany subordination

8

---



Table of Contents

and intercreditor agreements. We also used the proceeds of the refinancing to pay fees and expenses totaling \$30,931,000 related to the 2014 Refinancing.

On June 25, 2015 (the "Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date"), we repaid the remaining balance of the New Pulitzer Notes triggering certain changes to the security and collateral of our remaining debt. The effects of such changes are discussed more fully below.

Notes

The Notes are senior secured obligations of the Company and mature on March 15, 2022. The Notes were sold pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Interest

The Notes require payment of interest semiannually on March 15 and September 15 of each year, at a fixed annual rate of 9.5%.

Redemption

We may redeem some, or all, of the principal amount of the Notes at any time on or after March 15, 2018, subject to call premiums as follows:

Period Beginning	Percentage of Principal Amount
March 15, 2018	104.75
March 15, 2019	102.375
March 15, 2020	100

We may also redeem up to 35% of the Notes prior to March 15, 2017 at 109.5% of the principal amount using the proceeds of certain future equity offerings.

If we sell certain of our assets or experience specific kinds of changes of control, we must, subject to certain exceptions, offer to purchase the Notes. Any redemption of the Notes must also satisfy any accrued and unpaid interest thereon.

Security

The Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed on a first-priority basis by each of the Company's material domestic subsidiaries in which the Company holds a direct or indirect interest of more than 50% and which guarantee indebtedness for borrowed money, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility (the "Lee Legacy Assignors"), excluding MNI, Pulitzer Inc. ("Pulitzer") and its subsidiaries (collectively, the "Pulitzer Subsidiaries") and TNI.

Following the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date, the Notes are also fully and unconditionally guaranteed, on a second-priority basis, by Pulitzer and each Pulitzer Subsidiary that guarantees the indebtedness under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan or other borrowings incurred by the Company or any subsidiary guarantor (collectively, the "Pulitzer Assignors").

The Notes and the subsidiary guarantees are secured, subject to certain exceptions, priorities and limitations in the various agreements, by a lien on all property and assets of the Lee Legacy Assignors (the "Lee Legacy Collateral"), other than the capital stock of MNI and any property and assets of MNI, on a first-priority basis, equally and ratably

with all of the Lee Legacy Assignors' existing and future obligations under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility, pursuant to a Security Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the "Notes Security Agreement") among the Lee Legacy Assignors and the Notes Collateral Agent.

Also, the Notes are secured, subject to certain exceptions, priorities and limitations in the various agreements, by first-priority security interests in the capital stock of, and other equity interests owned by, the Lee Legacy Assignors pursuant to the Notes Security Agreement.

## Table of Contents

Certain of the Lee Legacy Assignors, separately, have granted first-priority lien mortgages or deeds of trust, covering their material real estate and improvements for the benefit of the holders of the Notes.

Following the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date, the Notes and the subsidiary guarantees are also secured, subject to permitted liens, by a second-priority security interest in the property and assets of the Pulitzer Assignors other than assets of or used in the operations or business of TNI (the "Excluded TNI Assets")(collectively, the "Pulitzer Collateral") owned by each of the Pulitzer Assignors that become subsidiary guarantors, equally and ratably with all of the Pulitzer Assignors' existing and future obligations under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and certain other indebtedness for borrowed money incurred by the Company or any subsidiary guarantor.

Also, the Notes are secured, subject to certain exceptions, priorities, and limitations in the various agreements, by second-priority security interests in the capital stock of, and other equity interests in, the Pulitzer Assignors and Star Publishing's interest in TNI.

Certain Pulitzer Assignors also granted second-priority mortgages or deeds of trust for the benefit of the holders of the Notes, subject to all relevant terms and conditions of the applicable intercreditor agreements, covering the Pulitzer Assignors' material real estate and improvements.

The rights of the Collateral Agents with respect to the Lee Legacy Collateral and Pulitzer Collateral are subject to:

A Pari Passu Intercreditor Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the "Pari Passu Intercreditor Agreement") among the Company, the other Grantors party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., U.S. Bank National Association and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas;

A Pulitzer Pari Passu Intercreditor Agreement dated as of June 25, 2015 (the "Pulitzer Pari Passu Intercreditor Agreement") among the Company, the other Grantors party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., U.S. Bank National Association and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas;

A Junior Intercreditor Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the "Junior Intercreditor Agreement") among the Company, the other Grantors party hereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., U.S. Bank National Association, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas and Wilmington Trust, National Association; and

- A Pulitzer Junior Intercreditor Agreement dated as of June 25, 2015 (the "Pulitzer Junior Intercreditor Agreement") among the Company, Pulitzer, the Pulitzer Subsidiaries, Wilmington Trust, National Association, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., U.S. Bank National Association and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas.

## Covenants and Other Matters

The Indenture contains certain of the restrictive covenants in the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility, as discussed more fully below, and limitations on our use of the Pulitzer Subsidiaries' cash flows. However, many of these covenants will cease to apply if the Notes are rated investment grade by either Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or Standard & Poor's Ratings Group and there is no default or event of default under the Indenture.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility consists of the \$250,000,000 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan that matures in March 2019 and the \$40,000,000 Revolving Facility that matures in December 2018. The Revolving Facility may be used for working capital and general corporate purposes (including letters of credit). At June 28, 2015, after consideration of letters of credit, we have approximately \$32,935,000 available for future use under the Revolving Facility.



Table of Contents

## Interest

Interest on the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan, which has a principal balance of \$195,000,000 at June 28, 2015, accrues, at our option, at either (A) LIBOR plus 6.25% (with a LIBOR floor of 1.0%) or (B) 5.25% plus the highest of (i) the prime rate at the time, (ii) the federal funds rate plus 0.5%, or (iii) one month LIBOR plus 1.0% (with a floor of 2.0%). Interest is payable quarterly.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan was funded with an original issue discount of 2.0%, or \$5,000,000, which is being amortized as interest expense over the life of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan.

Interest on the Revolving Facility, which has a principal balance of zero at June 28, 2015, accrues, at our option, at either (A) LIBOR plus 5.5%, or (B) 4.5% plus the highest of (i) the prime rate at the time, (ii) the federal funds rate plus 0.5%, or (iii) one month LIBOR plus 1.0%.

## Principal Payments

Quarterly principal payments of \$6,250,000 are required under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan, with other payments made based on 90% of excess cash flow of Lee Legacy ("Lee Legacy Excess Cash Flow), as defined, or from proceeds of asset sales, as defined, from our subsidiaries other than the Pulitzer Subsidiaries. We may voluntarily prepay principal amounts outstanding or reduce commitments under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility at any time without premium or penalty, upon proper notice and subject to certain limitations as to minimum amounts of prepayments.

Following the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date, the excess cash flow of Pulitzer, as defined ("Pulitzer Excess Cash Flow"), may be used to pay down the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan if not accepted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan lenders, as discussed more fully below under the heading "2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan".

2015 payments made, or required to be made for the remainder of the year, under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan are summarized as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended			13 Weeks Ending
	December 28 2014	March 29 2015	June 28 2015	September 27 2015
Mandatory	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250
Voluntary	5,000	4,000	4,000	—
Asset sales	—	—	—	—
Excess cash flow	—	—	—	7,900
Pulitzer excess cash flow	—	—	—	—
	11,250	10,250	10,250	14,150

For the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015 the Lee Legacy Excess Cash Flow totaled \$7,900,000. This excess cash flow payment is due on or before August 12, 2015.

2014 payments made under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan or previous 1<sup>st</sup> lien agreement are summarized as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended			
	December 29 2013	March 30 2014	June 29 2014	September 28 2014
Mandatory	3,000	3,000	6,250	6,250
Voluntary	3,350	5,500	10,750	—

Edgar Filing: LEE ENTERPRISES, INC - Form 10-Q

Asset sales	150	1,500	—	—
1 <sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan excess cash flow	—	—	—	—
	6,500	10,000	17,000	6,250

11

---

## Table of Contents

### Security

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility is secured, subject to certain priorities and limitations in the various agreements, by perfected security interests in substantially all the assets of the Lee Legacy Assignors, pursuant to a First Lien Guarantee and Collateral Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the “1<sup>st</sup> Lien Guarantee and Collateral Agreement”) among the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (the “1<sup>st</sup> Lien Collateral Agent”), on a first-priority basis, equally and ratably with all of the Company’s and the Subsidiary Guarantors’ existing and future obligations under the Notes. On the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date, the Pulitzer Assignors became a party to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Guarantee and Collateral Agreement.

The Lee Legacy Assignors’ pledged assets include, among other things, equipment, inventory, accounts receivables, depository accounts, intellectual property and certain of their other tangible and intangible assets. Assets of, or used in the operations or business of MNI, and our ownership interest in, MNI are excluded.

Under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility, the Lee Legacy Assignors, separately, have granted first-priority lien mortgages or deeds of trust, subject to all relevant terms and conditions of the applicable intercreditor agreements, covering certain real estate and improvements, to the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Lenders (excluding the real estate of Pulitzer, the Pulitzer Subsidiaries, TNI and MNI).

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility is also secured by a pledge of interests in all of the capital stock, or any other equity interests, owned by the Lee Legacy Assignors (excluding the capital stock of MNI).

Following the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date, the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and the subsidiary guarantees are also secured, subject to permitted liens, by a second-priority lien on the Pulitzer Collateral owned by each of the Pulitzer Assignors, equally and ratably with all of the Company’s and the subsidiary guarantors’ existing and future obligations under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and certain other indebtedness for borrowed money incurred by the Company or any subsidiary guarantor.

Following the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date, the Pulitzer Assignors also granted second-priority lien deeds of trust for the benefit of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Lenders, subject to all relevant terms and conditions of the applicable intercreditor agreements (referred to below), covering the Pulitzer Subsidiaries’ material real estate and improvements and the Pulitzer Assignors pledged their respective interests in all of the capital stock, or other equity interests, owed by the Pulitzer Assignors on a second-priority basis.

The rights of the Collateral Agents with respect to the Lee Legacy Collateral and Pulitzer Collateral are subject to:

- The Pari Passu Intercreditor Agreement;
- The Pulitzer Pari Passu Intercreditor Agreement;
- The Junior Intercreditor Agreement;
- The Pulitzer Junior Intercreditor Agreement; and

An Intercompany Subordination Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the “1<sup>st</sup> Lien Intercompany Subordination Agreement”) among the Company, Subsidiary Guarantors, Pulitzer, Pulitzer Subsidiaries and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

### Covenants and Other Matters

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility requires that we comply with certain affirmative and negative covenants customary for financing of this nature, including a maximum total leverage ratio, which is only applicable to the Revolving Facility.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility restricts us from paying dividends on our Common Stock and generally restricts us from repurchasing Common Stock, unless in each case no default shall have occurred and we have satisfied certain financial measurements. Further, the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility restricts or limits, among other things, subject to certain exceptions, the ability of the Company and its subsidiaries to: (i) incur indebtedness, (ii) enter



Table of Contents

into mergers, acquisitions and asset sales, (iii) incur or create liens and (iv) enter into transactions with certain affiliates. The 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility contains various representations and warranties and may be terminated upon occurrence of certain events of default. The 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility also contains cross-default provisions tied to the terms of each of the Indenture and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, which has a balance of \$150,000,000 at June 28, 2015, bears interest at a fixed annual rate of 12.0%, payable quarterly, and matures in December 2022.

Principal Payments

There are no scheduled mandatory payments required under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan.

Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, subject to certain other conditions, Pulitzer Excess Cash Flow must be used, (a) prior to March 31, 2017, to make an offer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Lenders (which offer the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Lenders may accept or reject, if rejected we may use the Pulitzer Excess Cash Flow to prepay amounts under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility), to pay amounts under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan at par and (b) after March 31, 2017, to pay such amounts under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan at par.

Pulitzer Excess Cash Flow includes a deduction for interest costs incurred under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan after the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date. In addition, other changes to settlement of certain intercompany costs between the Company and Pulitzer will be affected, with the net result being a reduction in the excess cash flows of Pulitzer from historically reported levels.

Subject to certain other conditions in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, the balance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan will, at our option, be repaid at par from proceeds from asset sales by Pulitzer or the Pulitzer Subsidiaries.

Voluntary payments under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan are otherwise subject to call premiums as follows:

Period Beginning	Percentage of Principal Amount
March 31, 2014	112
March 31, 2017	106
March 31, 2018	103
March 31, 2019	100

Security

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan is fully and unconditionally guaranteed on a joint and several first-priority basis by the Pulitzer Assignors, pursuant to a Second Lien Guarantee and Collateral Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the “2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Guarantee and Collateral Agreement”) among the Pulitzer Assignors and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Collateral Agent.

Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Guarantee and Collateral Agreement, the Pulitzer Assignors have granted (i) first-priority security interests, subject to certain priorities and limitations in the various agreements, in the Pulitzer Collateral and (ii) have granted first-priority lien mortgages or deeds of trust covering certain real estate, as collateral for the payment and performance of their obligations under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan.

The Pulitzer Collateral is also subject to (i) a first-priority security interest in favor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Lenders; and following the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date, (ii) a second-priority security interest in favor of the secured parties

under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and the Notes, as applicable.

Also, under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Guarantee and Collateral Agreement, the Lee Legacy Assignors have granted (i) second-priority security interests, subject to certain priorities and limitations in the various agreements, in the Lee Legacy Collateral, and (ii) have granted second-priority lien mortgages or deeds of trust covering certain real estate, as collateral for the payment and performance of their obligations under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan. Assets of, or used in the operations or business of, MNI are excluded.

13

---

Table of Contents

The rights of the Collateral Agents are subject to:

- The Pari Passu Intercreditor Agreement;
- The Pulitzer Pari Passu Intercreditor Agreement;
- The Junior Intercreditor Agreement;
- The Pulitzer Junior Intercreditor Agreement; and

An Intercompany Subordination Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the “Pulitzer Intercompany Subordination Agreement”) among the Company, the Subsidiary Guarantors, Pulitzer, Pulitzer Subsidiaries and Wilmington Trust, National Association.

Covenants and Other Matters

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan requires that we comply with certain affirmative and negative covenants customary for financing of this nature, including the negative covenants under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility discussed above. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan contains various representations and warranties and may be terminated upon occurrence of certain events of default. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan also contains cross-default provisions tied to the terms of the Indenture and 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility.

In connection with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, we entered into a Warrant Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the “Warrant Agreement”) between the Company and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association. Under the Warrant Agreement, certain affiliates or designees of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Lenders received on March 31, 2014 their pro rata share of warrants to purchase, in cash, an initial aggregate of 6,000,000 shares of Common Stock, subject to adjustment pursuant to anti-dilution provisions (the “Warrants”). The Warrants represent, when fully exercised, approximately 10.1% of shares of Common Stock outstanding at March 30, 2014 on a fully diluted basis. The exercise price of the Warrants is \$4.19 per share.

The Warrant Agreement contains a cash settlement provision in the event of a change of control prior to March 31, 2018 as well as other provisions requiring the Warrants be measured at fair value and included in other liabilities in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We remeasure the fair value of the liability each reporting period, with changes reported in other non-operating income (expense). The initial fair value of the Warrants was \$16,930,000. See Note 9.

In connection with the issuance of the Warrants, we entered into a Registration Rights Agreement dated as of March 31, 2014 (the “Registration Rights Agreement”). The Registration Rights Agreement requires, among other matters, that we use our commercially reasonable efforts to maintain the effectiveness for certain specified periods a shelf registration statement related to the shares of Common Stock to be issued upon exercise of the Warrants.

New Pulitzer Notes

In conjunction with its formation in 2000, St. Louis Post-Dispatch LLC (“PD LLC”) borrowed \$306,000,000 (the “Pulitzer Notes”) from a group of institutional lenders (the “Noteholders”). The Pulitzer Notes were guaranteed by Pulitzer pursuant to a Guaranty Agreement with the Noteholders. The aggregate principal amount of the Pulitzer Notes was payable in April 2009.

In February 2009, the Pulitzer Notes and the Guaranty Agreement were amended (the "Notes Amendment"). Under the Notes Amendment, PD LLC repaid \$120,000,000 of the principal amount of the debt obligation. The remaining debt balance of \$186,000,000 was refinanced by the Noteholders until April 2012.

In January 2012, in connection with the Plan, we entered into an amended Note Agreement and Guaranty Agreement, which amended the Pulitzer Notes and extended the maturity with the Noteholders. After consideration of unscheduled principal payments totaling \$15,145,000 (\$10,145,000 in December 2011 and \$5,000,000 in January 2012), offset by \$3,500,000 of non-cash fees paid to the Noteholders in the form of additional Pulitzer Notes debt, the amended Pulitzer Notes had a balance of \$126,355,000 in January 2012.

Table of Contents

In May 2013, we refinanced the \$94,000,000 remaining balance of the Pulitzer Notes (the "New Pulitzer Notes") with BH Finance LLC ("Berkshire") a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. The New Pulitzer Notes bore interest at 9%, payable quarterly.

On the Pulitzer Debt Satisfaction Date, we repaid the remaining balance of the New Pulitzer Notes.

## Other

We incurred \$30,931,000 of fees and expenses related to the 2014 Refinancing, including a \$1,750,000 premium (1% of the principal amount) related to the redemption of the previous 2<sup>nd</sup> lien agreement and \$5,000,000 original issue discount on the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan. In addition, at the date of the 2014 Refinancing we had \$10,549,000 of unamortized present value adjustments related to the previous 1<sup>st</sup> lien agreement and previous 2<sup>nd</sup> lien agreement. We also recognized original issue discount of \$16,930,000 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan related to the Warrants. Certain of the unamortized present value adjustments, the new fees and expenses and a portion of the value of the Warrants were charged to expense upon completion of the 2014 Refinancing while the remainder of such costs have been capitalized and are being amortized over the lives of the respective debt agreements.

Debt financing costs are summarized as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)

Prepayment premium - previous 2 <sup>nd</sup> lien agreement	1,750
Unamortized loan fees from previous credit agreements	10,549
Fees paid in cash to arrangers, lenders, attorneys and others	24,181
Original issue discount - 1 <sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan	5,000
Fair value of Warrants granted to 2nd Lien Lenders	16,930
	58,410
Charged to expense as a result of debt extinguishment	20,591
Capitalized debt financing costs	37,819

Amortization of debt financing costs totaled \$1,240,000 and \$3,579,000 in the 13 weeks and 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015, respectively. Amortization of such costs is estimated to total \$4,009,000 in 2015, \$4,205,000 in 2016, \$4,393,000 in 2017, \$4,518,000 in 2018 and \$4,277,000 in 2019. At June 28, 2015 we have \$32,907,000 of unamortized debt financing costs in our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Debt is summarized as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)	June 28 2015	September 28 2014	Interest Rates (%)
			June 28 2015
Revolving Facility	—	5,000	5.65
1st Lien Term Loan	195,000	226,750	7.25
Notes	400,000	400,000	9.50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan	150,000	150,000	12.00
New Pulitzer Notes	—	23,000	9.00
	745,000	804,750	
Less current maturities of long-term debt	32,900	31,400	
Total long-term debt	712,100	773,350	

At June 28, 2015, our weighted average cost of debt, excluding amortization of debt financing costs, is 9.4%.

Aggregate scheduled maturities of debt total \$14,150,000 for the remainder of 2015, \$25,000,000 in 2016, \$25,000,000 in 2017, \$25,000,000 in 2018, \$105,850,000 in 2019 and \$550,000,000 thereafter.

Table of Contents

Liquidity

At June 28, 2015, after consideration of letters of credit, we have approximately \$32,935,000 available for future use under our Revolving Facility. Including cash, our liquidity at June 28, 2015 totals \$51,839,000. This liquidity amount excludes any future cash flows. We expect all interest and principal payments due in the next twelve months will be satisfied by our cash flows, which will allow us to maintain an adequate level of liquidity. The Warrants, if and when exercised, would provide additional liquidity in an amount up to \$25,140,000 subject to a reduction for any amounts the Company may elect to use to repay our 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan and/or the Notes.

The 2014 Refinancing significantly enhanced our debt maturity profile. Final maturities of our debt have been extended to dates from December 2018 through December 2022. As a result, we believe refinancing risk has been substantially reduced for the next several years.

There are numerous potential consequences under the Notes, 1st Lien Credit Facility and 2nd Lien Term Loan, if an event of default, as defined, occurs and is not remedied. Many of those consequences are beyond our control. The occurrence of one or more events of default would give rise to the right of the applicable lender(s) to exercise their remedies under the Notes, 1st Lien Credit Facility and 2nd Lien Term Loan, respectively, including, without limitation, the right to accelerate all outstanding debt and take actions authorized in such circumstances under applicable collateral security documents.

Our ability to operate as a going concern is dependent on our ability to remain in compliance with debt covenants and to refinance or amend our debt agreements as they become due, or earlier if available liquidity is consumed. The Notes, 1st Lien Credit Facility and 2nd Lien Term Loan have only limited affirmative covenants with which we are required to maintain compliance. We are in compliance with our debt covenants at June 28, 2015.

5 PENSION, POSTRETIREMENT AND POSTEMPLOYMENT DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS

We have three noncontributory defined benefit pension plans that together cover selected employees. Benefits under the plans were generally based on salary and years of service. All benefits are frozen; however participants in one of the plans may receive additional benefits if they remain employed until retirement age, resulting in the continuing service costs. Our liability and related expense for benefits under the plans are recorded over the service period of active employees based upon annual actuarial calculations. Plan funding strategies are influenced by government regulations and income tax laws. Plan assets consist primarily of domestic and foreign corporate equity securities, government and corporate bonds, hedge fund investments and cash.

In addition, we provide retiree medical and life insurance benefits under postretirement plans at several of our operating locations. The level and adjustment of participant contributions vary depending on the specific plan. PD LLC also provides postemployment disability benefits to certain employee groups prior to retirement. Our liability and related expense for benefits under the postretirement plans are recorded over the service period of active employees based upon annual actuarial calculations. We accrue postemployment disability benefits when it becomes probable that such benefits will be paid and when sufficient information exists to make reasonable estimates of the amounts to be paid. Plan assets may also be used to fund current medical costs of certain active employees.

We use a fiscal year end measurement date for all of our pension and postretirement medical plan obligations.

Table of Contents

The net periodic cost (benefit) components of our pension and postretirement medical plans are as follows:

PENSION PLANS (Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended		
	June 28	June 29	June 28	June 29	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Service cost for benefits earned during the period	226	39	678	117	
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	1,859	1,999	5,577	5,997	
Expected return on plan assets	(2,466)	(2,483)	(7,398)	(7,449)	)
Amortization of net loss	420	106	1,260	318	
Amortization of prior service benefit	(34)	(34)	(102)	(102)	)
Pension expense (benefit)	5	(373)	15	(1,119)	)
POSTRETIREMENT MEDICAL PLANS (Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended		
	June 28	June 29	June 28	June 29	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Service cost for benefits earned during the period	39	149	117	447	
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	211	228	633	684	
Expected return on plan assets	(361)	(371)	(1,083)	(1,113)	)
Amortization of net gain	(347)	(455)	(1,041)	(1,365)	)
Amortization of prior service benefit	(365)	(365)	(1,095)	(1,095)	)
Postretirement medical benefit	(823)	(814)	(2,469)	(2,442)	)

Amortization of net gains (losses) and prior service benefits are recorded as compensation in the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Operations.

Based on our forecast at June 28, 2015, we expect to contribute \$2,818,000 to our pension plans for the remainder of 2015. Based on our forecast at June 28, 2015, we do not expect to contribute to our postretirement plans for the remainder of 2015.

## 6INCOME TAXES

We recorded income tax expense of \$2,141,000 related to income before taxes of \$4,276,000 for the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015. For the 13 weeks ended June 29, 2014, we recorded \$4,882,000 in income tax benefit related to a loss before income taxes of \$14,393,000. The effective income tax rates for the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014 were 50.1% and 33.9%, respectively. The increase in the effective income tax rate for the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015 is primarily due to a mark-to-market adjustment to value the Warrants issued in connection with our 2014 Refinancing. We recorded income tax expense of \$9,353,000 related to income before taxes of \$23,537,000 for the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015. For the 39 weeks ended June 29, 2014, we recorded \$3,995,000 in income tax expenses related to income before taxes of \$8,290,000. The effective income tax rates for the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015 and June 29, 2014 were 39.7% and 48.2%, respectively. The primary differences between these rates and the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% are due to the effect of state taxes, non-deductible expenses, adjustments to reserves for uncertain tax positions, including any related interest, and mark-to-market adjustments to value the Warrants.

We file a consolidated federal tax return, as well as combined and separate tax returns in approximately 27 state and local jurisdictions. We have various income tax examinations ongoing which are at different stages of completion, but generally our income tax returns have been audited or closed to audit through 2009. See Note 10 for a discussion of



our tax audits.

State cash tax payments of \$173,000 were made during the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015, of which \$1,000 were made during the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015. State cash tax refunds of \$236,000 relating to carrybacks

17

---

Table of Contents

of prior year losses were received during the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015, all of which were received during the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015. Due to our federal and state net operating loss carryforwards and based on historical levels of performance, we do not expect any significant income tax payments in 2015, 2016 or 2017.

## 7 EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per common share:

(Thousands of Dollars and Shares, Except Per Share Data)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended	
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015	June 29 2014
Income (loss) attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated:	1,882	(9,746	) 13,435	3,632
Weighted average common shares	54,642	53,627	54,352	53,342
Less weighted average restricted Common Stock	(2,045	)(1,283	)(1,831	)(1,126
Basic average common shares	52,597	52,344	52,521	52,216
Dilutive stock options and restricted Common Stock	1,459	—	1,436	1,439
Diluted average common shares	54,056	52,344	53,957	53,655
Earnings (loss) per common share:				
Basic	0.04	(0.19	) 0.26	0.07
Diluted	0.03	(0.19	) 0.25	0.07

For the 13 weeks and 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015, 6,116,000 and 6,814,000 weighted average shares, respectively, were not considered in the computation of diluted earnings per common share because the exercise prices of the related stock options and Warrants were in excess of the fair market value of our Common Stock. In the 13 weeks ended June 29, 2014 no stock options or Warrants were considered in the computation of loss per common share. For the 39 weeks ended June 29, 2014, 2,107,000 weighted average shares were not considered in the computation of diluted earnings per common share because the related stock option exercise prices were in excess of the fair market value of our Common Stock.

## 8 STOCK OWNERSHIP PLANS

A summary of stock option activity during the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015 follows:

(Thousands of Dollars and Shares, Except Per Share Data)	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding, September 28, 2014	2,333	2.70		
Exercised	(151	) 1.36		
Cancelled	(104	) 6.61		
Outstanding, June 28, 2015	2,078	2.60	5.9	3,144
Exercisable, June 28, 2015	1,993	2.65	5.8	2,998

Total unrecognized compensation expense for unvested stock options as of June 28, 2015 is \$25,000, which will be recognized over a weighted average period of 0.5 years.

Table of Contents

## Restricted Common Stock

The table below summarizes restricted Common Stock activity during the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015.

(Thousands of Shares, Except Per Share Data)	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding, September 28, 2014	1,291	2.72
Granted	786	3.62
Cancelled	(15	) 3.62
Outstanding, June 28, 2015	2,062	3.06

Total unrecognized compensation expense for unvested restricted Common Stock at June 28, 2015 is \$3,691,000, which will be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.5 years.

## 9FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820 establishes a three-level hierarchy of fair value measurements based on whether the inputs to those measurements are observable or unobservable which consists of the following levels:

Level 1 - Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets;

Level 2 - Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs are observable in active markets; and

Level 3 - Valuations derived from valuation techniques in which one or more significant inputs are unobservable.

The following methods and assumptions are used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instruments for which it is practicable to estimate value.

The carrying amounts of cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value because of the short maturity of those instruments. Investments totaling \$7,359,000, including our 17% ownership of the nonvoting common stock of TCT, are carried at cost.

The fair value of floating rate debt, which consists of our 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan, is \$195,487,500, based on an average of private market price quotations. Our fixed rate debt consists of \$400,000,000 principal amount of the Notes and \$150,000,000 principal amount under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan. At June 28, 2015, based on private market price quotations the fair values were \$406,750,000 and \$159,375,000 for the Notes and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, respectively. These represent level 2 fair value measurements.

As discussed more fully in Note 4, we recorded a liability for the Warrants issued in connection with the Warrant Agreement. The liability was initially measured at its fair value. We remeasure the liability to fair value each reporting period, with changes reported in other non-operating income (expense). The initial fair value of the Warrants was \$16,930,000. At September 28, 2014, the fair value of the Warrants was \$10,808,000. At March 29, 2015, the fair value of the Warrants was \$10,029,000. At June 28, 2015, the fair value of the Warrants is \$11,119,800. Fair value is determined using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. These represent level 2 fair value measurements.

## 10COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Redemption of PD LLC Minority Interest

In February 2009, in conjunction with the Notes Amendment, PD LLC redeemed the 5% interest in PD LLC and STL Distribution Services LLC ("DS LLC") owned by The Herald Publishing Company, LLC ("Herald") pursuant to a Redemption Agreement and adopted conforming amendments to the Operating Agreement. As

19

---

## Table of Contents

a result, the value of Herald's former interest (the "Herald Value") was to be settled, based on a calculation of 10% of the fair market value of PD LLC and DS LLC at the time of settlement, less the balance, as adjusted, of the Pulitzer Notes or the equivalent successor debt, if any. We recorded a liability of \$2,300,000 in 2009 as an estimate of the amount of the Herald Value to be disbursed. In 2011, we reduced the liability related to the Herald Value to \$300,000 based on the current estimate of fair value.

In 2014, we issued 100,000 shares of Common Stock in full satisfaction of the Herald Value. Such shares had a fair value of \$298,000 on the date of issuance.

The redemption of Herald's interest in PD LLC and DS LLC generates significant tax benefits to us as a consequence of the resulting increase in the tax basis of the assets owned by PD LLC and DS LLC and the related depreciation and amortization deductions. The increase in basis to be amortized for income tax purposes over a 15 year period beginning in February 2009 is approximately \$258,000,000.

## Income Taxes

Commitments exclude unrecognized tax benefits to be recorded in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 740, Income Taxes. We are unable to reasonably estimate the ultimate amount or timing of cash settlements with the respective taxing authorities for such matters. See Note 6.

We file income tax returns with the IRS and various state tax jurisdictions. From time to time, we are subject to routine audits by those agencies and those audits may result in proposed adjustments. We have considered the alternative interpretations that may be assumed by the various taxing agencies, we believe the positions taken regarding our filings are valid, and that adequate tax liabilities have been recorded to resolve such matters. However, the actual outcome cannot be determined with certainty and the difference could be material, either positively or negatively, to the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) in the periods in which such matters are ultimately determined. We do not believe the final resolution of such matters will be material to our consolidated financial position or cash flows.

## Legal Proceedings

In 2008, a group of newspaper carriers filed suit against us in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, claiming to be our employees and not independent contractors. The plaintiffs sought relief related to alleged violations of various employment-based statutes, and requested punitive damages and attorneys' fees. In 2014 we reached a settlement with the plaintiffs and recorded a liability of \$2,300,000. The court approved the settlement and we paid \$2,176,000 in full satisfaction of the claim in April 2015.

We are involved in a variety of other legal actions that arise in the normal course of business. Insurance coverage mitigates potential loss for certain of these other matters. While we are unable to predict the ultimate outcome of these other legal actions, it is our opinion that the disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our Consolidated Financial Statements, taken as a whole.

## Multiemployer Pension Plans

In 2015, we were notified that a bargaining unit at one of our enterprises was no longer being represented. As a result of the enterprise's employees' withdrawal from representation, we may be subject to a future claim from the multiemployer pension plan for a withdrawal liability. The amount of such liability, if any, will be dependent on actions taken, or not taken, by the Company and the pension plan, as well as the future investment performance and funding status of the pension plan.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion includes comments and analysis relating to our results of operations and financial condition as of and for the 13 weeks and 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and related Notes thereto, included herein, and our 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

20

---

Table of Contents

NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

No non-GAAP financial measure should be considered as a substitute for any related GAAP financial measure. However, we believe the use of non-GAAP financial measures provides meaningful supplemental information with which to evaluate our financial performance, or assist in forecasting and analyzing future periods. We also believe such non-GAAP financial measures are alternative indicators of performance used by investors, lenders, rating agencies and financial analysts to estimate the value of a publishing business and its ability to meet debt service requirements.

The non-GAAP financial measures utilized by us are defined as follows:

Adjusted EBITDA is defined as operating income (loss), plus depreciation, amortization, impairment charges, stock compensation and 50% of EBITDA from TNI and MNI, minus equity in earnings of associated companies and curtailment gains.

Adjusted Income (Loss) and Adjusted Earnings (Loss) Per Common Share are defined as income (loss) attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated and earnings (loss) per common share adjusted to exclude both unusual matters and those of a substantially non-recurring nature.

Cash Costs are defined as compensation, newsprint and ink, other operating expenses and certain unusual matters, such as workforce adjustment costs. Depreciation, amortization, impairment charges, other non-cash operating expenses and other unusual matters are excluded. We also present cash costs excluding unusual matters, specifically workforce adjustment costs.

Operating Cash Flow is defined as operating income (loss) plus depreciation, amortization and impairment charges, minus equity in earnings of TNI and MNI and curtailment gains. Operating Cash Flow Margin is defined as operating cash flow divided by operating revenue. The terms operating cash flow and EBITDA are used interchangeably.

Unlevered Free Cash Flow is defined as operating income (loss), plus depreciation, amortization, impairment charges, stock compensation, distributions from TNI and MNI and cash income tax refunds, minus equity in earnings of TNI and MNI, curtailment gains, cash income taxes, pension contributions and capital expenditures. Changes in working capital, asset sales, minority interest and discontinued operations are excluded. Free Cash Flow also includes financial income, interest expense and debt financing and reorganization costs.

Tables reconciling operating cash flow, adjusted EBITDA, unlevered free cash flow and free cash flow to operating income (loss), the most directly comparable measure under GAAP, are set forth in Item 2, included herein, under the caption "Selected Consolidated Financial Information".

Reconciliations of adjusted income (loss) and adjusted earnings (loss) per common share to income (loss) attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated and earnings (loss) per common share, respectively, the most directly comparable measures under GAAP, are set forth in Item 2, included herein, under the caption "Overall Results".

The subtotals of operating expenses representing cash costs can be found in tables in Item 2, included herein, under the captions "13 Weeks Ended June 28, 2015" and "39 Weeks Ended June 28, 2015".

We also present selected information for Lee Legacy and Pulitzer. Lee Legacy constitutes the business of the Company, including MNI, but excluding Pulitzer, the Pulitzer Subsidiaries and TNI. See "Selected Lee Legacy Financial Information" and "Selected Pulitzer Financial Information" in Item 2, included herein.



CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Our discussion and analysis of results of operations and financial condition are based upon our Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"). The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. We evaluate these estimates and judgments on an ongoing basis. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for

21

---

## Table of Contents

making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. Our critical accounting policies include the following:

- Goodwill and other intangible assets;
- Pension, postretirement and postemployment benefit plans;
- Income taxes;
- Revenue recognition; and
- Uninsured risks.

Additional information regarding these critical accounting policies can be found under the caption “Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in our 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## IMPACT OF RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued new accounting requirements for the recognition of revenue from contracts with customers. The new requirements also include additional disclosure about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from customer contracts, including significant judgments and changes in judgments and assets recognized from costs incurred to obtain or fulfill a contract. The adoption of these requirements is required in 2019, but may be deferred one year. We have not yet determined the potential impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

In August 2014, the FASB issued a new going concern standard. The new standard changes the period that companies use to evaluate their ability to meet obligations to a look-forward period of one year from the financial statement issuance date, from one year from the balance sheet date. The new standard also changes disclosure requirements. The adoption of the new standard is required in 2017. We do not expect the adoption of this standard to have a material impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements, taken as a whole.

In April 2015, the FASB issued a new standard for the presentation debt issuance costs. The new standard will streamline the balance sheet presentation of debt related valuations. Debt issuance costs are currently recognized as deferred charges and presented as an asset while debt discounts and premiums are treated as adjustments to the related debt. Under the new standard, debt issuance costs will be recognized as reductions to the related debt. The adoption of the new standard is required in 2017. The adoption of this standard will serve to reclassify certain amounts within our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

## EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

We are a leading provider of local news and information, and a major platform for advertising, in the markets we serve, which are located primarily in the Midwest, Mountain West and West regions of the United States. With the exception of St. Louis, Missouri, our 50 daily newspaper markets, across 22 states, are principally midsize or small. Through our print and digital platforms, we reach an overwhelming majority of adults in our markets.

Our products include:

• 50 daily and 38 Sunday newspapers with subscribers totaling 1.0 million and 1.4 million, respectively, read by over three million people in print; and

• Nearly 300 weekly newspapers and classified and niche publications.

Our markets have established retail bases, and most are regional shopping hubs. We are located in four state capitals. Six of our top ten markets by revenue include major universities, and seven are home to major corporate headquarters. Based on data from the Bureau of Labor of Statistics as of May 2015, the unemployment rate in seven of our top ten markets by revenue was lower than the national average. We believe that all of these factors have had a positive impact on advertising revenue. Community newspapers remain a valuable source of local news and information to readers and an effective means for local advertisers to reach their customers. We believe our audiences across these communities tend to be loyal readers that actively seek our content and serve as an attractive target for our advertisers.

## Table of Contents

We do not face significant competition from other local daily newspapers in most of our markets, although there is significant competition for audience in those markets from other media. In our top ten markets by revenue, only two have significant local daily print competition.

Our primary source of revenue is advertising and marketing services, followed by subscription revenue. Over the last several years, the advertising industry has experienced a shift from print and other traditional media towards digital advertising as readership has also shifted from print to digital. This trend in traditional print advertising and readership was compounded by the effects of the last recession, and such trend continues to impact our print advertising and marketing services revenue. In addition, our printed newspaper paid subscription and single copy unit sales have declined. We have attempted to offset our declines in print advertising and marketing services revenue and print subscription revenue with our efforts to grow our digital advertising revenue and also increase subscription rates, including all access, and increase the number of paid digital subscribers.

In April 2014, we began to implement a full access subscription model, which provides subscribers with complete digital access, including desktop, mobile, tablet and replica editions. These are offered as packages with print home delivery or as digital-only subscriptions, with subscription rates reflective of the expanded access. Due to the timing of the rollout and staggered subscriber renewal dates, the bulk of the positive revenue from this initiative should be realized in 2015.

During, and since, the last economic downturn, we have also transformed our business model and carefully managed our costs to maintain high cash flows and margins.

## IMPAIRMENT OF GOODWILL AND OTHER ASSETS

We have significant amounts of goodwill and identified intangible assets. Since 2007 we have recorded impairment charges totaling almost \$1.3 billion to reduce the value of certain of these assets. Should general economic, market or business conditions decline, and have a negative impact on our stock price or projected future cash flows, we may be required to record additional impairment charges in the future. Such charges would not impact our cash flows or debt covenant compliance.

## DEBT AND LIQUIDITY

We have a substantial amount of debt, as discussed more fully (and certain capitalized terms used below defined) in Note 4 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, included herein.

Substantially all of our debt was scheduled to mature in April 2012. We used a voluntary, prepackaged petition under the U. S. Bankruptcy Code to accomplish a refinancing that extended the maturity to December 2018 for most of our debt, with the remainder maturing in December 2022. On March 31, 2014, we refinanced all of our other debt in the 2014 Refinancing. Our ability to make payments on our indebtedness will depend on our ability to generate future cash flows. This ability, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, business, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control.

At June 28, 2015, after consideration of letters of credit, we have approximately \$32,935,000 available for future use under our Revolving Facility. Including cash, our liquidity at June 28, 2015 totals \$51,839,000. This liquidity amount excludes any future cash flows. We expect all interest and principal payments due in the next twelve months will be satisfied by our cash flows, which will allow us to maintain an adequate level of liquidity. The Warrants, if and when exercised, would provide additional liquidity in an amount up to \$25,140,000 subject to a reduction for any amounts the Company may elect to use to repay the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan and/or the Notes.

At June 28, 2015, the principal amount of our outstanding debt totaled \$745,000,000. For the last twelve months ended June 28, 2015, the principal amount of our debt, net of cash, is 4.6 times our adjusted EBITDA, compared to a ratio of 4.7 on a pro forma basis for the 2014 Refinancing at June 29, 2014.

The 2014 Refinancing significantly enhanced our debt maturity profile. Final maturities of our debt have been extended to dates from December 2018 through December 2022. As a result, we believe refinancing risk has been substantially reduced for the next several years.

There are numerous potential consequences under the Notes, 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, if an event of default, as defined, occurs and is not remedied. Many of those consequences are beyond our control. The

Table of Contents

occurrence of one or more events of default would give rise to the right of the applicable lender(s) to exercise their remedies under the Notes, 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, respectively, including, without limitation, the right to accelerate all outstanding debt and take actions authorized in such circumstances under applicable collateral security documents.

Our ability to operate as a going concern is dependent on our ability to remain in compliance with debt covenants and to refinance or amend our debt agreements as they become due, or earlier if available liquidity is consumed. The Notes, 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan have only limited affirmative covenants with which we are required to maintain compliance. We are in compliance with our debt covenants at June 28, 2015.

Table of Contents

13 WEEKS ENDED JUNE 28, 2015

Operating results, as reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements, are summarized below.

(Thousands of Dollars, Except Per Share Data)	13 Weeks Ended		Percent Change
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	
Advertising and marketing services revenue:			
Retail	63,754	69,507	(8.3 )
Classified:			
Employment	7,929	9,277	(14.5 )
Automotive	6,213	7,266	(14.5 )
Real estate	3,837	4,569	(16.0 )
All other	11,143	11,926	(6.6 )
Total classified	29,122	33,038	(11.9 )
National	4,608	5,268	(12.5 )
Niche publications and other	3,006	2,471	21.7
Total advertising and marketing services revenue	100,490	110,284	(8.9 )
Subscription	47,394	43,339	9.4
Commercial printing	3,239	3,147	2.9
Digital services	3,070	2,565	19.7
Other	3,353	3,790	(11.5 )
Total operating revenue	157,546	163,125	(3.4 )
Operating expenses:			
Compensation	58,442	60,330	(3.1 )
Newsprint and ink	7,421	9,224	(19.5 )
Other operating expenses	55,405	53,840	2.9
Workforce adjustments	1,057	419	NM
Cash costs	122,325	123,813	(1.2 )
Operating cash flow	35,221	39,312	(10.4 )
Depreciation and amortization	11,395	12,194	(6.6 )
Loss on sales of assets, net	686	9	NM
Impairment of goodwill and other assets	—	336	NM
Equity in earnings of associated companies	1,705	1,836	(7.1 )
Operating income	24,845	28,609	(13.2 )
Non-operating expense, net	(20,569)	(43,002)	(52.2 )
Income (loss) before income taxes	4,276	(14,393)	)NM
Income tax expense (benefit)	2,141	(4,882)	)NM
Net income (loss)	2,135	(9,511)	)NM
Net income attributable to non-controlling interests	(253)	(235)	)7.7
Income (loss) attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated	1,882	(9,746)	)NM
Other comprehensive loss, net of income taxes	(192)	(441)	(56.5 )
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated	1,690	(10,187)	)NM
Earnings (loss) per common share:			
Basic	0.04	(0.19)	)NM
Diluted	0.03	(0.19)	)NM

References to the "2015 Quarter" refer to the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015. Similarly, references to the "2014 Quarter" refer to the 13 weeks ended June 29, 2014.

Total operating revenue decreased \$5,579,000, or 3.4%, in the 2015 Quarter, compared to the 2014 Quarter. Excluding the impact of a subscription-related expense reclassification as a result of moving to fee-for-service delivery contracts at several of our newspapers, operating revenue decreased 5.1%. This reclassification increases both print subscription revenue and operating expenses, with no impact on operating cash flow or operating income. Certain delivery expenses



## Table of Contents

were previously reported as a reduction of revenue. A table below details the impact of the reclassification on revenue and cash costs. Unless otherwise noted, the comparisons below are presented on a reported basis.

### Advertising and Marketing Services Revenue

In the 2015 Quarter, advertising and marketing services revenue decreased \$9,794,000, or 8.9%, compared to the 2014 Quarter. Retail advertising decreased 8.3%. Digital retail advertising on a stand-alone basis increased 12.0%, partially offsetting print declines.

Classified revenue decreased 11.9% in the 2015 Quarter. Employment revenue decreased 14.5% while automotive advertising decreased 14.5%, real estate decreased 16.0% and other classified decreased 6.6%. Digital classified revenue on a stand-alone basis decreased 3.1%.

National advertising decreased \$660,000, or 12.5%. Digital national advertising on a stand-alone basis increased 7.6% as a result of improved inventory management of available advertising positions offered on the national advertising exchanges. Advertising in niche publications and other increased 21.7%.

On a stand-alone basis, digital advertising and marketing services revenue increased 6.5% to \$20,765,000 in the 2015 Quarter, representing 20.7% of total advertising and marketing services revenue. Total digital revenue for the 2015 Quarter, including advertising and marketing services, subscriptions and all other digital business, totaled \$30,093,000, an increase of 28.6% from a year ago, representing 19.1% of total operating revenue. Print advertising, including preprints, and print marketing services revenue decreased 12.2%.

### Subscription and Other Revenue

Subscription revenue increased \$4,055,000, or 9.4%, in the 2015 Quarter. Excluding the impact of the subscription-related expense reclassification, subscription revenue increased 3.4% or \$1,407,000. The increase in subscription revenue in the current year quarter is primarily due to the effect of our full access subscription model, offset in part by a decline in print units. We expect subscription revenue for the full year 2015, excluding the impact of subscription-related expense reclassification, to increase 2.5%-3.0%.

Our average daily newspaper circulation, including TNI, MNI and digital subscribers, totaled 1.0 million in the 2015 Quarter. Sunday circulation totaled 1.4 million. Amounts are not comparable to the 2014 Quarter due to changes in measurements by the Alliance for Audited Media ("AAM"). Research in our larger markets indicates we are maintaining our share of audience through the combination of digital audience growth and strong print and digital newspaper readership.

Commercial printing revenue increased \$92,000, or 2.9%, in the 2015 Quarter. Digital services revenue increased \$505,000, or 19.7%, largely fueled by TownNews.com, which provides content management and digital ad agency services for web, print, mobile and social products to our properties as well as 1,500 other newspapers, and media operations. Other revenue decreased \$437,000, or 11.5%, in the 2015 Quarter.

### Operating Expenses

Cash costs decreased \$1,488,000, or 1.2%, in the 2015 Quarter. Excluding the impact of the subscription-related expense reclassification, cash costs decreased 3.4%. Also excluding unusual matters, and the subscription-related expense reclassification cash costs decreased 3.9% in the 2015 Quarter.

Compensation expense decreased \$1,888,000, or 3.1%, in the 2015 Quarter, driven by a decline in average full-time equivalent employees.

Newsprint and ink costs decreased \$1,803,000, or 19.5%, in the 2015 Quarter, primarily as a result of lower newsprint prices and a reduction in newsprint volume of 13.4%. See Item 3, "Commodities", included herein, for further discussion and analysis of the impact of newsprint on our business.

Other operating expenses, which are comprised of all operating costs not considered to be compensation, newsprint, depreciation, amortization, or unusual matters, increased \$1,565,000, or 2.9%, in the 2015 Quarter, due primarily to the subscription-related expense reclassification. Excluding the subscription related expense reclassification other operating expense decreased 2.1% or \$1,083,000.

Table of Contents

We expect our fourth quarter cash costs, excluding the impact of the subscription-related expense reclassification and unusual matters, to decrease between 5.5%-6.0%, a further improvement from the decrease of 2.2% for the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015. These additional cost reductions in the second half of fiscal year 2015 may also have a favorable impact on the following year cash costs.

Certain results, excluding the impact of the subscription-related expense reclassification, are as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended		Percent Change
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	
Subscription revenue, as reported	47,394	43,339	9.4
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(4,512)	(1,864)	)NM
Subscription revenue, as adjusted	42,882	41,475	3.4
Total operating revenue, as reported	157,546	163,125	(3.4 )
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(4,512)	(1,864)	)NM
Total operating revenue, as adjusted	153,034	161,261	(5.1 )
Other cash costs, as reported	55,405	53,840	2.9
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(4,512)	(1,864)	)NM
Other cash costs, as adjusted	50,893	51,976	(2.1 )
Total cash costs excluding unusual matters	121,268	123,394	(1.7 )
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(4,512)	(1,864)	)NM
Total cash cost excluding unusual matters, as adjusted	116,756	121,530	(3.9 )
Total cash costs, as reported	122,325	123,813	(1.2 )
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(4,512)	(1,864)	)NM
Total cash costs, as adjusted	117,813	121,949	(3.4 )

Approximately \$4,166,000, or 92.3%, of the reclassification impacts revenue and cash costs of our Lee Legacy operations, and approximately \$346,000, or 7.7%, impacts Pulitzer. The subscription-related expense reclassification described above also increased revenue and cash costs of MNI by \$1,450,000 in the 2015 Quarter. Such amounts for MNI are not included in the table above.

#### Operating Cash Flow and Results of Operations

As a result of the factors noted above, operating cash flow decreased 10.4%, to \$35,221,000, in the 2015 Quarter compared to \$39,312,000 in the 2014 Quarter. Operating cash flow margin decreased to 22.4% from 24.1% a year ago. The reduction of operating cash flow margin exclusively related to the subscription-related expense reclassification was 0.7% in the 2015 Quarter.

Depreciation expense decreased \$734,000, or 13.9%, in the 2015 Quarter. Amortization expense decreased \$65,000, or 0.9%, in the 2015 Quarter. Sales of operating assets resulted in a net loss of \$686,000 in the 2015 Quarter compared to a net loss of \$9,000 in the 2014 Quarter.

Equity in earnings of TNI and MNI decreased \$131,000 in the 2015 Quarter.

The factors noted above resulted in operating income of \$24,845,000 in the 2015 Quarter compared to \$28,609,000 in the 2014 Quarter.

Nonoperating Income and Expense

Interest expense decreased \$1,533,000, or 7.8%, to \$18,121,000 in the 2015 Quarter due to lower debt balances. Our weighted average cost of debt, excluding amortization of debt financing costs, increased to 9.4% at the end of the 2015 Quarter compared to 9.3% at the end of the 2014 Quarter, since all recent debt reductions were made to our lower cost debt obligations.

27

---

Table of Contents

We recognized \$1,445,000 of debt refinancing costs in the 2015 Quarter compared to \$21,732,000 in the 2014 Quarter. The decrease from the prior year is due to the 2014 Refinancing. We also recognized \$1,091,000 of non-operating expense in the 2015 Quarter due to the change in fair value of Warrants issued in connection with our 2014 Refinancing.

## Overall Results

We recognized income tax expense of 50.1% of income before income taxes in the 2015 Quarter and 33.9% in the 2014 Quarter. See Note 6 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of the difference between the expected federal income tax rate and the actual tax rates.

As a result of the factors noted above, income attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated totaled \$1,882,000 in the 2015 Quarter compared to a loss of \$9,746,000 in the 2014 Quarter. We recorded earnings per diluted common share of \$0.03 in the 2015 Quarter and a loss per diluted common share of \$0.19 in the 2014 Quarter. Excluding unusual matters, as detailed in the table below, diluted earnings per common share, as adjusted, were \$0.09 in the 2015 Quarter, compared to \$0.11 in the 2014 Quarter. Per share amounts may not add due to rounding.

	13 Weeks Ended			
	June 28 2015		June 29 2014	
(Thousands of Dollars, Except Per Share Data)	Amount	Per Share	Amount	Per Share
Income (loss) attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated, as reported	1,882	0.03	(9,746	)(0.19
Adjustments:				
Impairment of intangible and other assets	—		336	
Debt financing costs	1,445		21,732	
Warrants fair value adjustment	1,091		(579	)
Litigation settlement	—		2,300	
Workforce adjustments and other, net	1,188		426	
	3,724		24,215	
Income tax effect of adjustments, net	(866	)	(8,675	)
	2,858	0.05	15,540	0.30
Income attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated, as adjusted	4,740	0.09	5,794	0.11

Table of Contents

39 WEEKS ENDED JUNE 28, 2015

Operating results, as reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements, are summarized below. Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

(Thousands of Dollars, Except Per Share Data)	39 Weeks Ended		Percent Change
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	
Operating revenue:			
Retail	202,086	216,591	(6.7 )
Classified:			
Employment	23,000	24,546	(6.3 )
Automotive	19,793	22,309	(11.3 )
Real estate	11,619	13,113	(11.4 )
All other	31,881	32,683	(2.5 )
Total classified	86,293	92,651	(6.9 )
National	17,134	18,879	(9.2 )
Niche publications and other	8,119	7,273	11.6
Total advertising and marketing services revenue	313,632	335,394	(6.5 )
Subscription	145,904	130,744	11.6
Commercial printing	8,830	9,170	(3.7 )
Digital services	9,267	7,257	27.7
Other	11,596	12,038	(3.7 )
Total operating revenue	489,229	494,603	(1.1 )
Operating expenses:			
Compensation	181,615	181,543	—
Newsprint and ink	23,928	29,120	(17.8 )
Other operating expenses	170,426	161,708	5.4
Workforce adjustments	1,908	925	NM
Cash costs	377,877	373,296	1.2
Operating cash flow	111,352	121,307	(8.2 )
Depreciation and amortization	34,457	36,410	(5.4 )
Loss (gain) on sales of assets, net	434	(1,622)	)NM
Impairment of goodwill and other assets	—	336	NM
Equity in earnings of associated companies	6,114	6,348	(3.7 )
Operating income	82,575	92,531	(10.8 )
Non-operating expense, net	(59,038)	)(84,241)	)(29.9 )
Income before income taxes	23,537	8,290	NM
Income tax expense	9,353	3,995	NM
Net income	14,184	4,295	NM
Net income attributable to non-controlling interests	(749)	)(663)	)13.0
Income attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated	13,435	3,632	NM
Other comprehensive loss, net of income taxes	(576)	)(1,324)	)NM
Comprehensive income attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated	12,859	2,308	NM
Earnings per common share:			
Basic	0.26	0.07	NM
Diluted	0.25	0.07	NM

References to the "2015 Period" refer to the 39 weeks ended June 28, 2015. Similarly, references to the "2014 Period" refer to the 39 weeks ended June 29, 2014.

Total operating revenue decreased \$5,374,000, or 1.1%, in the 2015 Period, compared to the 2014 Period. Excluding the impact of the subscription-related expense reclassification, operating revenue for the 2015 Period decreased 3.5%. A table below details the impact of the reclassification on revenue and cash costs. Unless otherwise noted, the comparisons below are presented on a reported basis.

## Table of Contents

### Advertising and Marketing Services Revenue

In the 2015 Period, advertising and marketing services revenue decreased \$21,762,000, or 6.5%, compared to the 2014 Period. Retail advertising decreased 6.7%. Digital retail advertising on a stand-alone basis increased 6.9%, partially offsetting print declines.

Classified revenue decreased 6.9% in the 2015 Period. Employment revenue decreased 6.3% while automotive advertising decreased 11.3%, real estate decreased 11.4% and other classified decreased 2.5%. Digital classified revenue on a stand-alone basis increased 5.9%, partially offsetting print declines.

National advertising decreased \$1,745,000, or 9.2%. Digital national advertising on a stand-alone basis increased 15.6% due to improved inventory management of available ad positions offered on the national advertising exchanges. Advertising in niche publications and other increased 11.6%.

On a stand-alone basis, digital advertising and marketing services revenue increased 7.3%, to \$59,540,000, in the 2015 Period, representing 19.0% of total advertising and marketing services revenue. Total digital revenue for the 2015 Period, including advertising and marketing services, subscriptions and all other digital business, totaled \$84,662,000, an increase of 29.3% from a year ago, representing 17.3% of total operating revenue. Print advertising, including preprints and print marketing services revenue decreased 9.2%.

### Subscription and Other Revenue

Subscription revenue increased \$15,160,000, or 11.6%, in the 2015 Period. Excluding the impact of the subscription-related expense reclassification, subscription revenue increased 2.7% or \$3,501,000. The increase in subscription revenue in the current year period is primarily due to the effect of our full access subscription model, in part offset by a decline in print units.

Our average daily newspaper circulation, including TNI, MNI and digital subscribers, totaled 1.0 million in the 2015 Period. Sunday circulation totaled 1.4 million. Amounts are not comparable to the 2014 Period due to changes in measurements by the AAM.

Commercial printing revenue decreased \$340,000, or 3.7%, in the 2015 Period. Digital services revenue increased \$2,010,000, or 27.7% in the 2015 Period. Other revenue decreased \$442,000, or 3.7%, in the 2015 Period.

### Operating Expenses

Cash costs increased \$4,581,000, or 1.2%, in the 2015 Period. Excluding the impact of the subscription-related expense reclassification, cash costs decreased 1.9%. Also excluding unusual matters and the subscription-related expenses reclassified, cash costs decreased 2.2% in the 2015 Period or \$8,061,000.

Compensation expense increased slightly, in the 2015 Period, driven by increases in employee medical and pension costs, as well as company wide compensation increases in January 2015, which were offset by a decline in average full time equivalent employees of 4.5%.

Newsprint and ink costs decreased \$5,192,000, or 17.8%, in the 2015 Period, primarily as a result of lower newsprint prices and a reduction in newsprint volume of 12.6%. See Item 3, "Commodities", included herein, for further discussion and analysis of the impact of newsprint on our business.



Other operating expenses, which are comprised of all operating costs not considered to be compensation, newsprint, depreciation, amortization, or unusual matters, increased \$8,718,000, or 5.4%, in the 2015 Period due to the subscription-related expense reclassification. Excluding the impact of the subscription-related expenses reclassification other operating expense decreased 1.8% or \$2,941,000.

Table of Contents

Certain results, excluding the impact of the subscription-related expense reclassification, are as follows:

(Thousands of Dollars)	39 Weeks Ended		Percent Change
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	
Subscription revenue, as reported	145,904	130,744	11.6
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(13,924)	(2,265)	)NM
Subscription revenue, as adjusted	131,980	128,479	2.7
Total operating revenue, as reported	489,229	494,603	(1.1 )
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(13,924)	(2,265)	)NM
Total operating revenue, as adjusted	475,305	492,338	(3.5 )
Other cash costs, as reported	170,426	161,708	5.4
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(13,924)	(2,265)	)NM
Other cash costs, as adjusted	156,502	159,443	(1.8 )
Total cash costs excluding unusual matters	375,969	372,371	1.0
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(13,924)	(2,265)	)NM
Total cash cost excluding unusual matters, as adjusted	362,045	370,106	(2.2 )
Total cash costs, as reported	377,877	373,296	1.2
Adjustment for subscription-related expense reclassification	(13,924)	(2,265)	)NM
Total cash costs, as adjusted	363,953	371,031	(1.9 )

Approximately \$12,883,000, or 92.5%, of the reclassification impacts revenue and cash costs of our Lee Legacy operations, and approximately \$1,041,000, or 7.5%, impacts Pulitzer. The subscription-related expense reclassification described above also increased revenue and cash costs of MNI by \$4,383,000 in the 2015 Period. Such amounts for MNI are not included in the table above.

#### Operating Cash Flow and Results of Operations

As a result of the factors noted above, operating cash flow decreased 8.2%, to \$111,352,000, in the 2015 Period compared to \$121,307,000 in the 2014 Period. Operating cash flow margin decreased to 22.8% from 24.5% a year ago. The reduction of operating cash flow margin exclusively related to the subscription-related expense reclassification was 0.7% in the 2015 Period.

Depreciation expense decreased \$1,840,000, or 11.7%, in the 2015 Period, due primarily to lower levels of capital spending over the last several years. Amortization expense decreased \$113,000, or 0.5%, in the 2015 Period due to impairment charges recorded in 2014. Sales of operating assets resulted in a net loss of \$434,000 in the 2015 Period compared to a net gain of \$1,622,000 in the 2014 Period.

Equity in earnings in associated companies decreased \$234,000 in the 2015 Period.

The factors noted above resulted in operating income of \$82,575,000 in the 2015 Period compared to \$92,531,000 in the 2014 Period.

#### Nonoperating Income and Expense

Interest expense decreased \$5,719,000, or 9.4%, to \$55,314,000 in the 2015 Period due to lower debt balances and \$2,394,000 of non-cash interest expense in the 2014 Period.

We recognized \$4,040,000 of debt financing costs in the 2015 Period compared to \$21,935,000 in the 2014 Period. The decrease is due to the 2014 Refinancing.

Table of Contents

## Overall Results

We recognized income tax expense of 39.7% of income before income taxes in the 2015 Period and 48.2% in the 2014 Period.

As a result of the factors noted above, income attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated totaled \$13,435,000 in the 2015 Period compared to \$3,632,000 in the 2014 Period. We recorded earnings per diluted common share of \$0.25 in the 2015 Period and \$0.07 in the 2014 Period. Excluding unusual matters, as detailed in the table below, diluted earnings per common share, as adjusted, were \$0.32 in the 2015 Period, compared to \$0.40 in the 2014 Period. Per share amounts may not add due to rounding.

(Thousands of Dollars, Except Per Share Data)	June 28		39 Weeks Ended	
	2015	Per Share	June 29	2014
	Amount	Per Share	Amount	Per Share
Income attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated, as reported	13,435	0.25	3,632	0.07
Adjustments:				
Impairment of intangible and other assets	—		336	
Debt financing costs	4,040		21,935	
Amortization of debt present value adjustment	—		2,394	
Warrants fair value adjustment	312		(579	)
Litigation settlement	—		2,300	
Workforce adjustments and other, net	1,570		1,003	
	5,922		27,389	
Income tax effect of adjustments, net	(1,897	)	(9,754	)
	4,025	0.07	17,635	0.33
Income attributable to Lee Enterprises, Incorporated, as adjusted	17,460	0.32	21,267	0.40

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

## Operating Activities

Cash provided by operating activities was \$66,149,000 in the 2015 Period and \$69,583,000 in the 2014 Period. We recorded net income of \$14,184,000 in the 2015 Period and \$4,295,000 in the 2014 Period. Non-cash debt financing costs charged to expense totaled \$4,040,000 in the 2015 Period compared to \$21,935,000 in the 2014 Period. Such costs more than offset the increase in net income in the 2015 Period. Changes in depreciation and amortization, deferred income taxes, and operating assets and liabilities accounted for the bulk of the change in cash provided by operating activities in the 2015 Period.

## Investing Activities

Cash required for investing activities totaled \$3,927,000 in the 2015 Period compared to \$6,223,000 in the 2014 Period. Capital spending totaled \$7,686,000 in the 2015 Period compared to \$8,204,000 in the 2014 Period. We received \$3,341,000 and \$2,192,000 of proceeds from sales of assets in the 2015 Period and the 2014 Period, respectively.

We anticipate that funds necessary for capital expenditures, which are expected to total up to \$12,000,000 in 2015, and other requirements, will be available from internally generated funds or availability under our Revolving Facility.

#### Financing Activities

Cash required for financing activities totaled \$60,022,000 in the 2015 Period and \$63,164,000 in the 2014 Period. Payments of debt financing costs totaled \$477,000 in the 2015 Period and \$31,276,000 in the 2014 Period related to

## Table of Contents

the 2014 Refinancing. Debt reduction accounted for the majority of the remaining usage of funds in both the 2015 Period and the 2014 Period.

As discussed more fully in Note 4 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, included herein, in May 2013, we refinanced the remaining balance of the Pulitzer Notes and on March 31, 2014 we refinanced all of our other debt.

### Liquidity

At June 28, 2015, after consideration of letters of credit, we have approximately \$32,935,000 available for future use under our Revolving Facility. Including cash, our liquidity at June 28, 2015 totals \$51,839,000. This liquidity amount excludes any future cash flows. We expect all interest and principal payments due in the next twelve months will be satisfied by our cash flows, which will allow us to maintain an adequate level of liquidity. The Warrants, if and when exercised, would provide additional liquidity in an amount up to \$25,140,000 subject to a reduction from any amounts the Company may elect to use to repay the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan and/or the Notes.

At June 28, 2015, the principal amount of our outstanding debt totals \$745,000,000. For the last twelve months ending June 28, 2015, the principal amount of our debt, net of cash, is 4.6 times our adjusted EBITDA, compared to a ratio of 4.7 at June 29, 2014.

The 2014 Refinancing significantly enhanced our debt maturity profile. Final maturities of our debt have been extended to dates from December 2018 through December 2022. As a result, we believe refinancing risk has been substantially reduced for the next several years.

There are numerous potential consequences under the Notes, 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, if an event of default, as defined, occurs and is not remedied. Many of those consequences are beyond our control. The occurrence of one or more events of default would give rise to the right of the applicable lender(s) to exercise their remedies under the Notes, 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, respectively, including, without limitation, the right to accelerate all outstanding debt and take actions authorized in such circumstances under applicable collateral security documents.

Our ability to operate as a going concern is dependent on our ability to remain in compliance with debt covenants and to refinance or amend our debt agreements as they become due, or earlier if available liquidity is consumed. The Notes, 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Credit Facility and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan have only limited affirmative covenants with which we are required to maintain compliance. We are in compliance with our debt covenants at June 28, 2015.

In 2014, we filed a Form S-3 shelf registration statement ("Shelf") with the SEC, which has been declared effective. The Shelf gives us the flexibility to issue and publicly distribute various types of securities, including preferred stock, common stock, warrants, secured or unsecured debt securities, purchase contracts and units consisting of any combination of such securities, from time to time, in one or more offerings, up to an aggregate amount of \$750,000,000. SEC issuer eligibility rules require us to have a public float of at least \$75,000,000 in order to use the Shelf. Subject to maintenance of the minimum level of equity market float and the conditions of our existing debt agreements, the Shelf may enable us to sell securities quickly and efficiently when market conditions are favorable or financing needs arise. Under our existing debt agreements, net proceeds from the sale of any securities may be used generally to reduce debt.

## CHANGES IN LAWS AND REGULATIONS

### Energy Costs

Energy costs can be volatile, and may increase in the future as a result of carbon emissions and other regulations being considered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

#### Health Care

The Affordable Care Act was enacted into law in 2010.

We expect the Affordable Care Act will continue to evolve. More recently, certain provisions applicable to employers were delayed. We expect our future health care costs to increase based on analysis published by the United States

## Table of Contents

Department of Health and Human Services, input from independent advisors and our understanding of various provisions of the Affordable Care Act that differ from our previous medical plans, such as:

- Certain preventive services provided without charge to employees;
- Automatic enrollment of new employees;
- Higher maximum age for dependent coverage;
- Elimination of lifetime benefit caps; and
- Free choice vouchers for certain lower income employees.

Administrative costs are also likely to increase as a result of new compliance reporting and mandatory fees per participant. New costs being imposed on other medical care businesses, such as health insurers, pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers, may be passed on to us in the form of higher costs. We may be able to mitigate certain of these future cost increases through changes in plan design.

We do not expect the Affordable Care Act will have a significant impact on our postretirement medical benefit obligation liability.

## Pension Plans

In 2012, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012 ("STEPA") was signed into law. STEPA provides for changes in the determination of discount rates that result in a near-term reduction in minimum funding requirements for our defined benefit pension plans. STEPA will also result in an increase in future premiums to be paid to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation ("PBGC").

In 2014, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act ("HTFPA") was signed into law. HTFPA generally extends the relief offered under STEPA and further increases premiums to be paid to the PBGC.

In October 2014, the Society of Actuaries released new mortality tables. The new tables generally result in increases in life expectancy. We used the new mortality tables to value our pension and postretirement liabilities at September 28, 2014, which increased such liabilities, in total, by approximately \$18,515,000, with a corresponding decrease in accumulated other comprehensive income in our Consolidated Balance Sheet as of that date.

## Income Taxes

Certain states in which we operate periodically consider changes to their corporate income tax rates. Until such changes are enacted, the impact of such changes cannot be determined.

## Minimum Wage Laws

The United States and various state and local governments are considering increasing their respective minimum wage rates. Most of our employees earn an amount in excess of the current United States or state minimum wage rates. However, until changes to such rates are enacted, the impact of the changes cannot be determined.

## INFLATION

General inflation in the United States economy has not been significant for the last several years. Price increases (or decreases) for our products are implemented when deemed appropriate by us. We continuously evaluate price increases, productivity improvements, sourcing efficiencies and other cost reductions to mitigate the impact of inflation.





Table of ContentsSELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

(Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended		52 Weeks Ended
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015
Advertising and marketing services	100,490	110,284	313,632	335,394	420,240
Subscription	47,394	43,339	145,904	130,744	191,986
Other	9,662	9,502	29,693	28,465	39,097
Total operating revenue	157,546	163,125	489,229	494,603	651,323
Compensation	58,442	60,330	181,615	181,543	243,126
Newsprint and ink	7,421	9,224	23,928	29,120	32,802
Other operating expenses	55,405	53,840	170,426	161,708	228,047
Depreciation and amortization	11,395	12,194	34,457	36,410	48,492
Loss (gain) on sales of assets, net	686	9	434	(1,622)	) 894
Impairment of intangible and other assets	—	336	—	336	532
Workforce adjustments	1,057	419	1,908	925	2,249
Total operating expenses	134,406	136,352	412,768	408,420	556,142
Equity in earnings of TNI and MNI	1,705	1,836	6,114	6,348	8,063
Operating income	24,845	28,609	82,575	92,531	103,244
Adjusted to exclude:					
Depreciation and amortization	11,395	12,194	34,457	36,410	48,492
Loss (gain) on sale of assets, net	686	9	434	(1,622)	) 894
Impairment of intangible and other assets	—	336	—	336	532
Equity in earnings of TNI and MNI	(1,705)	) (1,836)	) (6,114)	) (6,348)	) (8,063)
Operating cash flow	35,221	39,312	111,352	121,307	145,099
Add:					
Ownership share of TNI and MNI EBITDA (50%)	2,464	2,587	8,432	8,540	11,129
Adjusted to exclude:					
Stock compensation	562	397	1,645	1,081	2,045
Adjusted EBITDA	38,247	42,296	121,429	130,928	158,273
Adjusted to exclude:					
Ownership share of TNI and MNI EBITDA (50%)	(2,464)	) (2,587)	) (8,432)	) (8,540)	) (11,129)
Add (deduct):					
Distributions from TNI and MNI	2,041	2,346	8,113	7,654	10,455
Capital expenditures, net of insurance proceeds	(2,011)	) (3,309)	) (7,686)	) (8,204)	) (11,306)
Pension contributions	(1,130)	) (17)	) (1,565)	) (722)	) (2,365)
Cash income tax refunds (payments)	(1)	) 6,051	63	5,933	152
Unlevered free cash flow	34,682	44,780	111,922	127,049	144,080
Add (deduct):					
Financial income	79	85	258	306	337
Interest expense to be settled in cash	(18,121)	) (19,654)	) (55,314)	) (58,639)	) (74,005)
Debt financing costs paid	(395)	) (31,008)	) (477)	) (31,276)	) (788)
Free cash flow	16,245	(5,797)	) 56,389	37,440	69,624



Table of ContentsSELECTED LEE LEGACY ONLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

(Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended		52 Weeks Ended
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015
Advertising and marketing services	69,973	76,148	219,046	231,411	294,454
Subscription	31,876	28,022	97,935	83,499	128,428
Other	8,391	8,330	25,764	24,959	34,012
Total operating revenue	110,240	112,500	342,745	339,869	456,894
Compensation	44,187	45,086	136,706	135,035	182,312
Newsprint and ink	5,387	6,550	17,637	20,623	24,098
Other operating expenses	31,660	28,954	97,157	86,706	129,424
Depreciation and amortization	7,839	8,322	23,850	24,633	31,712
Loss (gain) on sale of assets, net	(73	) 8	(324	)(1,643	) 133
Impairment of intangible and other assets	—	336	—	336	532
Workforce adjustments	442	265	755	436	871
Total operating expenses	89,442	89,521	275,781	266,126	369,082
Equity in earnings of MNI	746	790	2,301	2,232	3,453
Operating income	21,544	23,769	69,265	75,975	91,265
Adjusted to exclude:					
Depreciation and amortization	7,839	8,322	23,850	24,633	31,712
Loss (gain) on sales of assets, net	(73	) 8	(324	)(1,643	) 133
Impairment of intangible and other assets	—	336	—	336	532
Equity in earnings of MNI	(746	)(790	) (2,301	)(2,232	) (3,453
Operating cash flow	28,564	31,645	90,490	97,069	120,189
Add:					
Ownership share of MNI EBITDA (50%)	1,401	1,436	4,306	4,110	6,101
Adjusted to exclude:					
Stock compensation	562	397	1,645	1,081	2,045
Adjusted EBITDA	30,527	33,478	96,441	102,260	128,335
Adjusted to exclude:					
Ownership share of MNI EBITDA (50%)	(1,401	)(1,436	) (4,306	)(4,110	) (6,101
Add (deduct):					
Distributions from MNI	1,000	1,000	4,000	3,750	5,000
Capital expenditures, net of insurance proceeds	(1,556	)(2,900	) (5,074	)(7,145	) (7,617
Pension contributions	—	(17	) —	(17	) (70
Cash income tax refunds (payments)	(1	)(199	) 152	(317	) 203
Intercompany charges not settled in cash	(2,317	)(2,099	) (6,953	)(6,297	) (10,334
Other	(2,000	)(2,000	) (2,000	)(2,000	) (2,000
Unlevered free cash flow	24,252	25,827	82,260	86,124	107,416
Add (deduct):					
Financial income	79	85	258	306	337
Interest expense to be settled in cash	(18,000	)(18,834	) (54,415	)(55,397	) (72,509
Debt financing costs paid	(296	)(31,000	) (378	)(31,268	) (689
Free cash flow	6,035	(23,922	) 27,725	(235	) 34,555



Table of ContentsSELECTED PULITZER ONLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

(Thousands of Dollars)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended		52 Weeks Ended
	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015	June 29 2014	June 28 2015
Advertising and marketing services	30,517	34,136	94,586	103,983	125,786
Subscription	15,518	15,317	47,969	47,245	63,558
Other	1,271	1,172	3,929	3,506	5,085
Total operating revenue	47,306	50,625	146,484	154,734	194,429
Compensation	14,255	15,244	44,909	46,508	60,814
Newsprint and ink	2,034	2,674	6,291	8,497	8,704
Other operating expenses	23,745	24,886	73,269	75,002	98,623
Depreciation and amortization	3,556	3,872	10,607	11,777	16,780
Loss (gain) on sale of assets, net	759	1	758	21	761
Workforce adjustments	615	154	1,153	489	1,378
Total operating expenses	44,964	46,831	136,987	142,294	187,060
Equity in earnings of TNI	959	1,046	3,813	4,116	4,610
Operating income	3,301	4,840	13,310	16,556	11,979
Adjusted to exclude:					
Depreciation and amortization	3,556	3,872	10,607	11,777	16,780
Loss (gain) on sales of assets, net	759	1	758	21	761
Equity in earnings of TNI	(959)	(1,046)	(3,813)	(4,116)	(4,610)
Operating cash flow	6,657	7,667	20,862	24,238	24,910
Add:					
Ownership share of TNI EBITDA (50%)	1,063	1,151	4,126	4,430	5,028
Adjusted EBITDA	7,720	8,818	24,988	28,668	29,938
Adjusted to exclude:					
Ownership share of TNI EBITDA (50%)	(1,063)	(1,151)	(4,126)	(4,430)	(5,028)
Add (deduct):					
Distributions from TNI	1,041	1,346	4,113	3,904	5,455
Capital expenditures, net of insurance proceeds	(455)	(409)	(2,612)	(1,059)	(3,689)
Pension contributions	(1,130)	—	(1,565)	(705)	(2,295)
Cash income tax refunds (payments)	—	6,250	(89)	6,250	(51)
Intercompany charges not settled in cash	2,317	2,099	6,953	6,297	10,334
Other	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Unlevered free cash flow	10,430	18,953	29,662	40,925	36,664
Deduct:					
Interest expense to be settled in cash	(121)	(820)	(899)	(3,242)	(1,496)
Debt financing costs paid	(99)	(8)	(99)	(8)	(99)
Free cash flow	10,210	18,125	28,664	37,675	35,069

## Table of Contents

### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are exposed to market risk stemming from changes in interest rates and commodity prices. Changes in these factors could cause fluctuations in earnings and cash flows. In the normal course of business, exposure to certain of these market risks is managed as described below.

#### INTEREST RATES ON DEBT

Our debt structure, which is predominantly fixed rate, significantly reduces the potential impact of an increase in interest rates. At June 28, 2015, 26.2% of the principal amount of our debt is subject to floating interest rates. Our primary exposure is to LIBOR. A 100 basis point increase or decrease to LIBOR would, if in excess of LIBOR minimums discussed more fully below, decrease or increase, respectively, income before income taxes on an annualized basis by approximately \$1,950,000 based on \$195,000,000 of floating rate debt outstanding at June 28, 2015.

Our debt under the 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan is subject to minimum interest rate levels of 1.0%. Based on the difference between interest rates in June 2015 and our 1.0% minimum rate, LIBOR would need to increase approximately 55 basis points for six month borrowing and up to approximately 81 basis points for one month borrowing before our borrowing cost would begin to be impacted by an increase in interest rates.

We regularly evaluate alternatives to hedge our interest rate risk, but have no hedging instruments in place.

#### COMMODITIES

Certain materials used by us are exposed to commodity price changes. We manage this risk through instruments such as purchase orders and non-cancelable supply contracts. We participate in a buying cooperative with other publishing companies, primarily for the acquisition of newsprint. We are also involved in continuing programs to mitigate the impact of cost increases through identification of sourcing and operating efficiencies. Primary commodity price exposures are newsprint and, to a lesser extent, ink and energy costs.

North American newsprint producers continued to face declining domestic newsprint demand and weak export shipment opportunities during the 2015 Quarter leading to further newsprint price reductions. A Canadian producer recently announced the permanent closure of its newsprint production machine effective July 2015. Our long term supply strategy takes other potential capacity closures into consideration and aligns us with suppliers we believe are most likely to continue to supply the North American newsprint market and our print locations.

A \$10 per tonne price increase for 30 pound newsprint would result in an annualized reduction in income before income taxes of approximately \$594,000 based on anticipated consumption in 2015, excluding consumption of TNI and MNI and the impact of LIFO accounting. Such prices may also decrease. We manage significant newsprint inventories, which may help to mitigate the impact of future price changes

#### SENSITIVITY TO CHANGES IN VALUE

At June 28, 2015, the fair value of floating rate debt, which consists primarily of our 1<sup>st</sup> Lien Term Loan, is \$195,487,500, based on an average of private market price quotations. Our fixed rate debt consists of \$400,000,000 principal amount of the Notes and \$150,000,000 principal amount under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan. At June 28, 2015, based on an average of private market price quotations, the fair values were \$406,750,000 and \$159,375,000 for the Notes and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lien Term Loan, respectively.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

EVALUATION OF DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Under the supervision and with the participation of our senior management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (the "Evaluation Date"). Based on this evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded as of the Evaluation Date that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective such that the information relating to the Company, including our consolidated subsidiaries, required to be disclosed in our SEC reports (i) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and



Table of Contents

(ii) is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

CHANGES IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the 13 weeks ended June 28, 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II  
OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We are involved in a variety of other legal actions that arise in the normal course of business. Insurance coverage mitigates potential loss for certain of these other matters. While we are unable to predict the ultimate outcome of these other legal actions, it is our opinion that the disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our Consolidated Financial Statements, taken as a whole.

Item 6. Exhibits  
Number Description

31.1	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) certification
31.2	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) certification
32	Section 1350 certification

\* Management contracts or compensation plans or arrangements in which executive officers are eligible to participate.

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

LEE ENTERPRISES, INCORPORATED

/s/ Ronald A. Mayo  
Ronald A. Mayo  
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

August 7, 2015