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## The Washington Post Company Reports Third Quarter Earnings

October 31, 2008

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WASHINGTON, Oct 31, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- The Washington Post Company (NYSE:WPO) today reported net income of $\$ 10.3$ million ( $\$ 1.08$ per share) for its third quarter ended September 28,2008 , compared to net income of $\$ 72.5$ million ( $\$ 7.60$ per share) for the third quarter of last year.

Items included in the Company's results for the third quarter of 2008:
-- A $\$ 59.7$ million goodwill impairment charge at the Company's community newspapers and The Herald, which are part of the newspaper publishing division (after-tax impact of $\$ 41.9$ million, or $\$ 4.48$ per share);
-- $\$ 12.5$ million in accelerated depreciation related to the closing of The Washington Post's College Park, MD, plant (after-tax impact of $\$ 7.9$ million, or $\$ 0.84$ per share); and
-- $\$ 20.6$ million in non-operating unrealized foreign currency losses arising from the strengthening of the U.S. dollar (after-tax impact of $\$ 13.0$ million, or $\$ 1.39$ per share).
Items included in the Company's results for the third quarter of 2007:
-- A $\$ 9.5$ million gain from the sale of property at the Company's television station in Miami (after-tax impact of $\$ 5.9$ million, or $\$ 0.62$ per share); and
-- $\$ 9.2$ million in non-operating unrealized foreign currency gains arising from the weakening of the U.S. dollar (after-tax impact of $\$ 5.7$ million, or $\$ 0.60$ per share).
 the television broadcasting division. Revenues were down at the Company's newspaper and magazine publishing divisions

Operating income declined in the third quarter of 2008 to $\$ 40.3$ million, from $\$ 110.5$ million in the third quarter of 2007. 2008 results included a $\$ 59.7$ million goodwill impairment charge and $\$ 12.5$ million in accelerated depreciation at The Washington Post; 2007 results included a $\$ 9.5$ million gain from the sale of property at the Company's television station in Miami. Offsetting these declines were improved results at the education, cable and magazine publishing divisions.

For the first nine months of 2008, net income totaled $\$ 46.9$ million ( $\$ 4.86$ per share), compared with $\$ 205.7$ million ( $\$ 21.48$ per share) for the same period of 2007.
Items included in the Company's results for the first nine months of 2008
-- Charges of $\$ 112.0$ million related to early retirement program expense at The Washington Post newspaper, the corporate office and Newsweek (after-tax impact of $\$ 67.8$ million, or $\$ 7.13$ per share);
-- A $\$ 59.7$ million goodwill impairment charge at the Company's community newspapers and The Herald, which are part of the newspaper publishing division (after-tax impact of $\$ 41.9$ million, or $\$ 4.48$ per share);
-- $\$ 13.7$ million in accelerated depreciation related to the closing of The Washington Post's College Park, MD, plant (after-tax impact of $\$ 8.6$ million, or $\$ 0.91$ per share);
-- A decline in equity in earnings (losses) of affiliates associated with $\$ 6.8$ million in impairment charges at two of the Company's affiliates (after-tax impact of $\$ 4.1$ million, or $\$ 0.43$ per share); and
-- $\$ 13.4$ million in non-operating unrealized foreign currency losses arising from the strengthening of the U.S. dollar (after-tax impact of $\$ 8.4$ million, or $\$ 0.89$ per share).
Items included in the Company's results for the first nine months of 2007:
-- A $\$ 9.5$ million gain from the sale of property at the Company's television station in Miami (after-tax impact of $\$ 5.9$ million, or $\$ 0.62$ per share);
-- An increase in equity in earnings of affiliates primarily from a $\$ 8.9$ million gain on the sale of land at the Company's Bowater Mersey affiliate (after-tax impact of $\$ 6.5$ million, or $\$ 0.68$ per share);
-- $\$ 13.8$ million in non-operating unrealized foreign currency gains arising from the weakening of the U.S. dollar (after-tax impact of $\$ 8.6$ million, or $\$ 0.90$ per share); and
-- Additional net income tax expense of $\$ 6.6$ million ( $\$ 0.70$ per share) as a result of a $\$ 12.9$ million ( $\$ 1.36$ per share) increase in taxes associated with Bowater Mersey and a tax benefit of $\$ 6.3$ million ( $\$ 0.66$ per share) associated with changes in certain state income tax laws. Both of these were non-cash items in 2007, impacting the Company's long-term net deferred income tax liabilities.
 the Company's newspaper publishing, magazine publishing and television broadcasting divisions.

Operating income for the first nine months of 2008 decreased to $\$ 112.0$ million, from $\$ 327.7$ million in the first nine months of 2007.2008 results included early retirement program expenses of $\$ 112.0$ million, a $\$ 59.7$ million goodwil
 station in Miami. Offsetting these declines were improved results at the education and cable divisions.
 the same periods of 2007, excluding charges related to early retirement programs.
Divisional Results
Education
 $14 \%$ for the third quarter of 2008 . Kaplan reported operating income of $\$ 51.1$ million for the third quarter of 2008 , up $36 \%$ from $\$ 37.6$ million in the third quarter of 2007 . Operating income in the third quarter of 2008 included stock compensation expense of $\$ 2.5$ million, compared to stock compensation expense of $\$ 12.0$ million in the third quarter of 2007

For the first nine months of 2008, education division revenue totaled $\$ 1,722.5$ million, a $15 \%$ increase over revenue of $\$ 1,493.9$ miliion for the same period of 2007 . Excluding revenue from acquired businesses, education division revenue
 2008 included stock compensation expense of $\$ 9.8$ million, compared to stock compensation expense of $\$ 35.3$ million in the first nine months of 2007.

A summary of Kaplan's operating results for the third quarter and the first nine months of 2008 compared to 2007 is as follows:

*Other includes charges accrued for stock-based incentive compensation and amortization of certain intangibles

 quarter of 2008 and $23 \%$ in the first nine months of 2008. Enroilments increased $22 \%$ to 99,700 at September 30,2008 , compared to 81,600 at September 30,2007 , due to growth in both online and residential programs. Higher education million in lease termination charges.



 program.

 quarter of 2007 , which included the closing of 75 Score centers. After closings and consolidations,Score operates 79 centers that focus on providing computer-assisted instruction and small-group tutoring. Operating income for test prep declined in the first nine months of 2008 due to higher payroll and marketing costs for the traditional test preparation programs, along with continued weakness at Score.



 are being implemented and certain operations are being decentralized, in addition to employee terminations. The restructuring has largely been completed, and $\$ 0.7$ million and $\$ 3.9$ million in severance costs were recorded in the third quarter and first nine months of 2008, respectively.
Corporate represents unallocated expenses of Kaplan, Inc.'s corporate office and other minor activities.
 varies directly with the estimated fair value of Kaplan's common stock, which is based on a comparison of operating results and public market values of other education companies. Kaplan recorded stock compensation expense of $\$ 2.5$ million and $\$ 12.0$ million in the third quarter of 2008 and 2007, respectively, and $\$ 9.8$ million and $\$ 35.3$ million in the first nine months of 2008 and 2007, respectively, related to this plan. In addition, Other includes amortization of certain intangibles, which increased due to recent Kaplan acquisitions.

## Newspaper Publishing

 from $\$ 657.2$ million for the first nine months of 2007.

The Company offered a Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program to some employees of The Washington Post newspaper in March 2008, and 231 employees accepted the offer. Early retirement program expense of $\$ 79.8$ million was
 that the plant will close in the second half of 2009 and that none of the four presses will be moved to The Post's Springfield, VA, plant. The Company reassessed the useful life of the presses and the fair value of the plant building and recorded accelerated depreciation beginning in June 2008; as a result, accelerated depreciation of $\$ 12.5$ million and $\$ 13.7$ million, respectively, was recorded in the third quarter and first nine months of 2008 , respectively. The Company estimates that additional accelerated depreciation of $\$ 9.4$ million and $\$ 28.4$ million, respectively, will be recorded in the fourth quarter of 2008 and in 2009, respectively. Additionally, in the third quarter of 2008 , the Company completed an impairment review of its community newspapers and The Herald, which resulted in a $\$ 59.7$ million goodwill impairment loss.



 quarter of 2008 , but down $5 \%$ for the first nine months of 2008.
A summary of newspaper division operating results for the third quarter and the first nine months of 2008 compared to 2007 is as follows:

| Third Quarter | Year-to-Date |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2008 | 2007 | \% | 2008 |  | 2007 | \% |
|  |  | Change |  |  |  | Change |
| \$196,217 | \$210,181 | (7) | \$599,593 |  | \$657,236 | (9) |
| $(206,807)$ | $(201,400)$ | 3 | $(624,716)$ | * | $(615,771)$ | 1 |
| $(10,590)$ | 8,781 | -- | $(25,123)$ * |  | 41,465 | -- |
| -- | -- | -- | $(79,800)$ |  | -- | -- |
| $(59,690)$ | -- | -- | $(59,690)$ |  | -- | -- |
| $(12,469)$ |  |  | $(13,682)$ |  |  |  |
| \$ 82,749$)$ | \$ 8,781 | -- | \$ $(178,295)$ |  | \$ 41,465 | -- |

Goodwill impairment charge $\quad(59,690)$
Accelerated depreciation
Operating (loss) income
*Non-GAAP measure
 same period of 2007. The decreases are primarily the result of a large decline in classified advertising revenue, along with reductions in retail and supplements.
 totaled 623,100 and average Sunday circulation totaled 872,700.
 $\$ 87.2$ million in the first nine months of 2008 , from $\$ 80.5$ million for the first nine months of 2007 . Display online advertising revenue grew $32 \%$ and $20 \%$ for the third quarter and first nine months of 2008 , respectively. Online classified
 division.

## Television Broadcasting



 in incremental summer Olympics-related advertising at the Company's NBC affiliates.
In the third quarter of 2008 , the television broadcasting division recorded $\$ 4.9$ million in non-cash property, plant and equipment gains as a reduction to expense due to new digital equipment received at no cost from Sprint/Nextel in
 back its current Miami television station facility; a $\$ 9.5$ million gain was recorded as a reduction to expense in the third quarter of 2007.
 income are due to a $\$ 9.5$ million gain on the sale of property at the Miami television station in the third quarter of 2007 and overall weak advertising demand for both the third quarter and nine months of 2008 , offset by the $\$ 4.9$ million in non-cash gains in the third quarter of 2008 .

In July 2008, the Company announced an agreement with NBC Universal to acquire WTVJ, the NBC-owned and operated television station in Miami, FL. The Company will continue to operate WTVJ as an NBC affiliate. The purchase is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. The acquisition is subject to approval by the Federal Communications Commission. The Company also owns and operates WPLG, the ABC affiliate in Miami, FL.

## Magazine Publishing



 rates due to the rate base reduction. Subscription revenue at the domestic edition also declined due to the rate base reduction.

As previously announced, Newsweek offered a Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program to certain employees in the first quarter of 2008 and 117 employees accepted the offer. The early retirement program expense totaled $\$ 29.2$ million, which will be funded mostly from the assets of the Company's pension plans. Of this amount, $\$ 24.6$ million was recorded in the first quarter of 2008 and $\$ 4.6$ million was recorded in the second quarter of 2008.

 decline due primarily to $\$ 29.2$ million in early retirement program expense and the revenue reductions discussed above, offset by a decline in subscription, manufacturing and distribution expenses at the domestic edition of Newsweek.
Cable Television


 for basic cable subscribers was in February 2006. In January 2008, the cable division purchased approximately 6,600 subscribers in Winona, MS, which also had a favorable impact on revenue growth for 2008.
 from $\$ 89.9$ million for the first nine months of 2007. The increase in operating income is due to the division's revenue growth, offset by higher depreciation and programming expenses and increases in Internet and telephony costs.



Cable Television Division Subscribers September 30, September 30,
Basic
Digital 20082007
701,711 699,2
$\begin{array}{lcc}\text { High-speed data } & 224,231 & 368,614 \\ & 329,815\end{array}$
Telephony $\quad 90,994 \quad 40,225$
Total 1,385,550 1,290,341
Other Businesses and Corporate Office


CourseAdvisor generates student leads for the post-secondary education market. CourseAdvisor operates as an independent subsidiary of The Washington Post Company.
In the first nine months of 2008, other businesses and corporate office included the expenses of the Company's corporate office and the operating results of CourseAdvisor. In the first nine months of 2007, other businesses and corporate office included the expenses of the Company's corporate office.

 in corporate office early retirement program expense recorded in the second quarter of 2008.
Equity in (Losses) Earnings of Affiliates
 of $\$ 8.3$ million for the same period of 2007. Results for the first nine months of 2008 included $\$ 6.8$ million in impairment charges at two of the Company's affiliates. In the first quarter of 2007 , $\$ 8.9$ million of the equity in earnings of affiliates was due to a gain on the sale of land at the Company's Bowater Mersey Paper Company Limited affiliate. The Company holds a 49\% interest in Bowater Mersey Paper Company

Other Non-Operating Income (Expense)
The Company's non-operating income (expense) is primarily due to unrealized foreign currency gains or losses arising from the translation of British pound and Australian dollar denominated intercompany loans into U.S. dollars.
 net, included $\$ 20.6$ million in unrealized foreign currency losses. The third quarter 2007 non-operating income, net, included $\$ 9.2$ million in unrealized foreign currency gains.

The Company recorded other non-operating expense, net, of $\$ 14.2$ million for the first nine months of 2008 , compared to other non-operating income, net, of $\$ 15.3$ million for the same period of the prior year. The 2008 non-operating expense, net, included $\$ 13.4$ million in unrealized foreign currency losses. The 2007 non-operating income, net, included $\$ 13.8$ million in unrealized foreign currency gains
 dollar against the British pound and the Australian dollar

## Net Interest Expense

 decline in interest income, as well as higher average borrowings in the first nine months of 2008 versus the same period of the prior year. At September 28, 2008, the Company had $\$ 509.1$ million in borrowings outstanding at an average interest rate of $4.7 \%$

Provision for Income Taxes
 to return adjustment from 2007, offset by $\$ 5.9$ million from nondeductible goodwill in connection with the impairment charge recorded in the third quarter of 2008 .
 to the Company's Bowater Mersey affiliate and a $\$ 6.3$ million income tax benefit related to a change in certain state income tax laws enacted in the second quarter of 2007 . Both of these were non-cash items in 2007, impacting the Company's long-term net deferred income tax liabilities. Excluding the impact of these items, the effective tax rate for the first nine months of 2007 was $38.0 \%$,

## Earnings Per Share

 for the third quarter and first nine months of 2007 . The Company repurchased 167,642 shares of its Class B common stock at a cost of $\$ 99.0$ million during the first nine months of 2008 .

Forward-Looking Statements
This report contains certain forward-looking statements that are based largely on the Company's current expectations. Forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and
 I of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(Unaudited)
(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

Operating revenues
Operating expenses
Depreciation
Amortization of intangibles and goodwill impairment charge Operating income
Equity in losses of affiliates, net
Interest income
Interest expense
Other (expense) income, net
Income before income taxes
Provision for income taxes
Net income
Redeemable preferred stock dividends
Net income available for common stock
Basic earnings per share
Diluted earnings per share
Basic average shares outstanding
Diluted average shares outstanding

|  | $2008$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \$ | 1,128,658 |  |
|  | (950,265 | ) |
|  | (73,524 | ) |
|  | (64,602 |  |
|  | 40,267 |  |
|  | (609 | ) |
|  | 1,173 |  |
|  | (6,882 | ) |
|  | (21,120 | ) |
|  | 12,829 |  |
|  | (2,500 | ) |
|  | 10,329 |  |
|  | (236 | ) |
| \$ | 10,093 |  |
| \$ | 1.08 |  |
| \$ | 1.08 |  |
|  | 9,334,057 |  |
|  | 9,358,096 |  |


|  |  |  | \% |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2007 |  | Change |  |
| \$ | 1,022,504 |  | 10 |  |
|  | (852,529 | ) | 11 |  |
|  | (55, 722 | ) | 32 |  |
|  | $(3,787$ | ) | -- |  |
|  | 110,466 |  | $(64$ | ) |
|  | (622 | ) | (2) | ) |
|  | 3,011 |  | (61 | ) |
|  | (6,014 | ) | 14 |  |
|  | 10,121 |  | -- |  |
|  | 116,962 |  | $(89$ | ) |
|  | (44,500 | ) | (94 | ) |
|  | 72,462 |  | $(86$ | ) |
|  | (237 | ) | 0 |  |
| \$ | 72,225 |  | (86 | ) |
| \$ | 7.62 |  | $(86$ | ) |
| \$ | 7.60 |  | $(86$ | ) |
|  | 9,472,87 |  |  |  |
|  | 9,508,75 |  |  |  |

THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(Unaudited)
(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

Operating revenues
Operating expenses
Depreciation
Amortization of intangibles and goodwill impairment charge
Operating income
Equity in (losses) earnings of affiliates, net
Interest income
Interest expense
Other (expense) income, net
Income before income taxes
Provision for income taxes



Redeemable preferred stock dividends
Net income available for common stock
Basic earnings per share
Diluted earnings per share
Basic average shares outstanding
Diluted average shares outstanding
9,458,193
THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY
BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION
(Unaudited)
(In thousands)

| Third Quarter$2008$ | 2007 |  | \% | Year-to-Date |  |  |  | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Change | 200 |  | 00 |  | Change |
| \$ 602,739 | \$ | 514,595 | 17 | \$ | 1,722,459 | \$ | 1,493,863 | 15 |
| 196,217 |  | 210,181 | (7 |  | 599,593 |  | 657,236 | (9 |



SOURCE: The Washington Post Company
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