

# Form 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended: **December 31, 2020**

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
Commissions file no. **1-33741**



BELO +  
B+C COMPANY

## A. H. Belo Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Texas**  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**38-3765318**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**P. O. Box 224866, Dallas, Texas 75222-4866**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**(214) 977-7342**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol	Name of each exchange on which registered
<b>Series A Common Stock, \$0.01 par value</b>	<b>AHC</b>	<b>New York Stock Exchange</b>

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:  
**Series B Common Stock, \$0.01 par value (Title of class)**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes  No

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 every Interactive Data File required to be submitted 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 such files). Yes  No

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

Large Accelerated Filer:  Accelerated Filer:  Non-Accelerated Filer:  Smaller Reporting Company:

Emerging Growth Company:

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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

The aggregate market value of the registrant's voting stock held by nonaffiliates on June 30, 2020, based on the closing price for the registrant's Series A Common Stock on such date as reported on the New York Stock Exchange, was approximately \$32,154,654.\*

Shares of Common Stock outstanding at March 4, 2021: 21,410,423 shares (consisting of 18,941,420 shares of Series A Common Stock and 2,469,003 shares of Series B Common Stock).

\* For purposes of this calculation, the market value of a share of Series B Common Stock was assumed to be the same as a share of Series A Common Stock into which it is convertible.

### Documents incorporated by reference:

Selected designated portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement, relating to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 13, 2021, are incorporated by reference into Parts II and III of this Annual Report.

A. H. Belo Corporation 2020 Annual Report on Form 10-K

**A. H. BELO CORPORATION  
FORM 10-K  
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## PART I

### CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K concerning A. H. Belo Corporation's business outlook or future economic performance, anticipated profitability, revenues, expenses, dividends, capital expenditures, investments, dispositions, impairments, business initiatives, acquisitions, pension plan contributions and obligations, real estate sales, working capital, future financings and other financial and non-financial items that are not historical facts, including statements of the Company's expectations relating to its plans to regain NYSE compliance, are "forward-looking statements" as the term is defined under applicable federal securities laws. Forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those statements. Such risks, trends and uncertainties are, in most instances, beyond the Company's control, and include changes in advertising demand and other economic conditions; consumers' tastes; newsprint prices; program costs; labor relations; cybersecurity incidents; technological obsolescence; and the current and future impacts of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Among other risks, there can be no guarantee that the board of directors will approve a quarterly dividend in future quarters. Forward-looking statements, which are as of the date of this filing, are not updated to reflect events or circumstances after the date of the statement.

All dollar amounts presented herein the Annual Report on Form 10-K, except share and per share amounts, are presented in thousands, unless the context indicates otherwise.

#### Item 1. Business

A. H. Belo Corporation and subsidiaries are referred to collectively herein as "A. H. Belo" or the "Company." The Company, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, is the leading local news and information publishing company in Texas. The Company has a growing presence in emerging media and digital marketing, and maintains capabilities related to commercial printing, distribution and direct mail. A. H. Belo delivers news and information in innovative ways to a broad range of audiences with diverse interests and lifestyles.

A. H. Belo Corporation was formed in February 2008 through a spin-off from its former parent company and is registered on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE trading symbol: AHC). The Company publishes *The Dallas Morning News* ([www.dallasnews.com](http://www.dallasnews.com)), Texas' leading newspaper and winner of nine Pulitzer Prizes, and various niche publications targeting specific audiences. Its newspaper operations also provide commercial printing and distribution services to several large national newspapers. In addition, the Company has the capabilities of a full-service strategy, creative and media agency that focuses on strategic and digital marketing, and data intelligence that provide a measurable return on investment to its clients.

#### Business Overview

The Company's goal is to create value for investors by being the premier provider of relevant and original local journalism in North Texas so citizens can make informed choices about their lives and the life of the communities in which they live. This commitment to excellence in journalism attracts and retains subscribers to the print edition, the digital site, and applications. The Company redesigned and expanded its website platforms and mobile applications in 2019 to provide a better customer experience with its digital news and information reporting.

Since the Company's spin-off in 2008, the print media industry has encountered continuous declines in revenue primarily due to the secular shift of readers and advertisers to digital platforms. The Company has sought to limit its exposure to these industry risks through greater development of its digital platforms for delivery of news and advertising, and leveraging its brand and personnel to enhance its media agency solutions. However, these improvements may not result in a sufficient increase in revenue to offset the declines the Company is experiencing in its traditional print media business.

In the third quarter of 2019, in conjunction with a strategic change to move to a single decision-making reporting structure and based on how the Company's chief operating decision-maker makes decisions about allocating resources and assessing performance, the Company determined it has one reportable segment. With this reorganization, the Company enhanced its capabilities to provide customers with strategic, creative and media marketing solutions with a focus on strategic and digital marketing, and data intelligence that provide a measurable return on investment to its clients.

The Company operates *The Dallas Morning News* ([www.dallasnews.com](http://www.dallasnews.com)), Texas' leading newspaper and winner of nine Pulitzer Prizes, and various niche publications targeting specific audiences. These operations generate revenue from sales of advertising within the Company's newspaper and digital platforms, subscriptions and retail sales of its newspapers, commercial printing and distribution services primarily related to national newspapers, and preprint advertising.

*The Dallas Morning News*' first edition was published on October 1, 1885. *The News* is one of the leading metropolitan newspapers in the United States. The newspaper is distributed primarily in Dallas County and 10 surrounding counties. This coverage area represents one of the most populous and fastest growing metropolitan areas in the country. *The News* has been awarded nine Pulitzer Prizes for news reporting, editorial writing and photography. *The News* also publishes *Briefing*, a newspaper distributed two days per week at no charge to nonsubscribers in select coverage areas, and *Al Dia*, an award-winning Spanish-language newspaper published on Wednesdays and distributed at no charge to households in select coverage areas. Unless otherwise noted, the financial and operating results of all publications are reported as *The Dallas Morning News*.

Businesses producing and providing services within the print and newspaper industry have encountered significant declines in revenue as a result of increasing use of the internet for delivery of information. These businesses have been challenged to find alternative solutions to offset the loss of revenue. The majority of revenues within the newspaper industry were historically generated from display and classified advertisements followed by revenues from subscriptions and retail sales of newspapers. Revenues from subscriptions and retail sales of newspapers have experienced greater resilience as readers have been willing to pay higher prices for the product, which has substantially offset lower circulation volumes. Since the spin-off from its former parent company in 2008, the Company has faced ongoing revenue declines primarily in print advertising and expects these trends to continue.

In addition to traditional print advertising, the Company has the ability to provide full-service agency capabilities including strategy, creative and media management with a focus on strategic and digital marketing, and data intelligence that provide a measurable return on investment to its clients. Through the full-service capabilities, we are able to offer businesses comprehensive, strategic and creative marketing solutions which allow our clients to connect with their business, their brand and their audiences. The Company has aligned management and its sales teams to provide a cross-functional integrated approach to maximize the development of these businesses. Digital marketing services are provided through the following service offerings:

- Multi-channel marketing solutions through subscription sales of the Company's cloud-based software, allowing customers to manage and individualize their marketing campaigns. In addition, multi-channel marketing services are provided to customers without access to the proprietary software.
- Digital and marketing analytics, search engine marketing and other marketing related services to businesses across the United States.
- Social media account management and content marketing services principally for businesses in the North Texas region.
- Multi-channel digital advertising and marketing services campaigns for customers, allowing them to target demographic audiences using data analytics and determine the delivery media such as email campaigns, banner impressions or video views on third-party websites.
- Marketing and promotional products for businesses to supply to employees and customers.

The following describes the Company's various revenue streams.

**Advertising and Marketing Services Revenue** - Advertising and marketing services revenue accounted for approximately 47 percent of total revenue for 2020. The Company has a comprehensive portfolio of print and digital advertising products, which include display, classified, preprint and digital advertising. Display revenue results from sales of advertising space within the Company's core newspapers and niche publications to local, regional or national businesses with local operations, affiliates or resellers. Classified revenue, which includes automotive, real estate, employment, obituaries and other, results from sales of advertising space in the classified and other sections of the Company's newspapers. Preprint revenue results from sales of preprinted advertisements or circulars inserted into the Company's core newspapers and niche publications, or distributed by mail or third-party distributors to households in targeted areas in order to provide total market coverage for advertisers. The Company's capabilities allow its advertisers to target preprint distribution selectively at the sub-zip code level in order to optimize coverage for the advertisers' locations.

The Company's digital advertising and marketing services revenue consists of strategic marketing management, consulting, creative services, targeted and multi-channel (programmatic) advertising placed on third-party websites, digital sales of banner, classified and native advertisements on the Company's news and entertainment-related websites and mobile apps, social media management, search optimization, direct mail and the sale of promotional materials.

**Circulation Revenue** - Circulation revenue accounted for approximately 42 percent of total revenue for 2020 and includes subscriptions and single copy sales related to the Company's core newspapers in print and digital formats. A. H. Belo's steadfast commitment to producing superior, unduplicated local journalism enables the Company's newspapers to charge premium subscription rates. *The Dallas Morning News*' goal is to maximize the amount of recurring revenue from consumers of the Company's print and digital products. The Company continuously assesses the journalism provided to subscribers and their willingness and ability to pay higher rates by geographic area. Each year since 2008, the Company has implemented effective rate increases to select subscribers or retailers. A digital replica version of *The Dallas Morning News* is offered on [dallasnews.com](http://dallasnews.com) for subscribers to purchase if they prefer to consume news through a digital device in a more traditional format. A. H. Belo's newspapers and the newspaper industry as a whole are challenged to maintain and grow print circulation volume. To the extent circulation volume declines cannot be offset by rate increases, the Company will realize lower circulation revenue. Circulation volume declines could also result in lower rates and volumes for advertising revenue.

The Company's news websites, including [dallasnews.com](http://dallasnews.com) and [aldiadallas.com](http://aldiadallas.com), are the leading English and Spanish news and entertainment digital platforms in the North Texas region. The news websites offer late-breaking and other up-to-date news coverage, user-generated content, advertising, e-commerce and other services. Readers can access news content across multiple digital platforms and obtain relevant local customized content and advertising. The Company's journalists have expanded their reach and deepened their engagement with audiences by delivering news and content through social media platforms such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter, which direct traffic to the core websites. The Company's success depends to a significant extent on its ability to develop and manage the digital business in response to the changes in consumers' preferences and behaviors, as well as changes to advertising expenditures, as described above.

**Printing, Distribution and Other Revenue** - Printing, distribution and other revenue accounted for approximately 11 percent of total revenue for 2020 and includes commercial printing, distribution, and shared mail packaging services. The Company's commercial printing and distribution services leverage the capacity of its production and distribution assets. The Company believes the incremental revenue from these services allows a greater return from the Company's operating assets.

Commercial printing and delivery services are provided for certain national newspapers. A shared mail packaging business is operated in Phoenix, Arizona, providing mailed advertisements for business customers.

### **Raw Materials and Distribution**

The basic material used in publishing newspapers is newsprint. The Company entered into a three-year Paper Supply Agreement, effective in August 2019, with Gannett Supply Corporation ("Gannett"), a newsprint broker, which will be the Company's sole supplier of newsprint from designated newsprint suppliers at market-based prices during the term of the agreement, except in certain specified instances. The agreement is renewable for successive one-year terms upon mutual agreement of the parties, and is terminable by either party on 180 days prior written notice. This agreement allows the Company access to multiple mills at competitive pricing. Prior to the Gannett agreement, the Company's newsprint was obtained through a purchasing consortium. Management believes the Gannett agreement provides adequate sources of newsprint to meet the Company's current needs. Significant increases in newsprint costs or the Company's inability to obtain an adequate supply of newsprint in the future could adversely affect its financial condition and results of operations.

During 2020, Company operations consumed 9,781 metric tons of newsprint at an average cost of \$549 per metric ton. Consumption of newsprint in 2019 was 11,619 metric tons at an average cost of \$751 per metric ton.

The Company's newspapers and other commercial print products are produced at its facility in Plano, Texas. Distribution of printed products to subscribers, retailers and newsstands is made under terms of agreements with third-party distributors. The Company believes a sufficient number of third-party distributors exist to allow uninterrupted distribution of the Company's products. However, if third-party service providers face financial difficulties or terminate their relationship with the Company, this could adversely affect the Company's ability to satisfy its customers or operate the business, and could affect results of operations.

## **Competitive Strengths and Challenges**

The Company's strengths include:

- the largest news-gathering operation in North Texas
- the opportunity to build valuable first-party data sets about consumers in North Texas due to the millions of unique visitors who come to the Company's websites and mobile applications monthly
- the ability to develop innovative new product and service offerings which leverage the Company's brand equity, existing content, distribution platforms, technologies and relationships
- the ability to provide clients with full-service agency capabilities including strategy, creative and media management which allow our clients to connect with their business, their brand and their audiences
- sufficient liquidity to allow the Company to invest opportunistically in the Company's business
- an affluent and educated demographic base in its market
- the ability to market print or digital products and services to large and targeted audiences at low marginal costs
- a large sales force with knowledge of the marketplaces in which the Company conducts its business, and relationships with current and potential print and digital advertising clients
- the ability to manage operating costs effectively according to market pressures

The Company's challenges include:

- timely growth of revenue and profits related to the Company's agency and digital services and digital subscriptions businesses that would provide for an offset to declines in revenue and profits related to the Company's print advertising and print circulation
- operating in a competitive environment with increased competition from other media, particularly internet-based media provided to customers at no cost
- effective monetization of locally-created online content on the Company's websites while balancing the impact of potential lower traffic volumes with an established metered-based model

In response to the decline in print revenue, the Company has developed agency and digital advertising capabilities through multiple media channels. The Company leverages its news content to improve engagement on the Company's digital platforms that results in increased digital subscriptions and associated revenue. The Company also continues to diversify its revenue base by leveraging the available capacity of its existing assets to provide print and distribution services for newspapers and other customers requiring these services, by introducing new advertising and marketing services products, and by increasing circulation prices.

Because of declining print circulation, the Company has developed broad digital strategies designed to provide readers with multiple platforms for obtaining online access to local news. The Company redesigned and expanded its website platforms and mobile applications in third quarter of 2019 to provide a better customer experience with its digital news and information content. The Company continues to obtain additional key demographic data from readers, which allows the Company to provide content desired by readers and to modify marketing and distribution strategies to target and reach audiences valued by advertisers. The Company has access to programmatic digital advertising platform that provides digital ad placement and targeting efficiencies and increases utilization of digital inventory within the Company's websites and external websites.

In addition to the general trends adversely affecting the publishing industry, the Company experienced unfavorable impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, which started in the latter part of the first quarter of 2020. For further information regarding the impact of COVID-19 and actions taken by the Company in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including with respect to its employees, see [Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations](#).

## **Strategy**

A. H. Belo is committed to producing quality journalism for its communities and providing innovative marketing and digital advertising solutions for its customers through its agency capabilities, while creating value for shareholders over the long-term through stock price appreciation and dividends. The Company continuously evaluates its operations and investments against various economic factors to determine the appropriate current strategies.

The Company is committed to maintaining the leading digital and print platforms for delivering news of the highest quality and reliability in the North Texas area, as well as creating and developing innovative print and digital advertising marketing service capabilities that address the needs of clients and advertisers.

The Company seeks to achieve these objectives through the following strategies:

- produce quality local journalism at scale, distributed through digital platforms that improve user engagement and result in increased digital subscriptions and customer retention
- develop new ways to optimize advertising dollars on the Company's digital platforms
- grow recurring advertising and digital marketing services revenue through a client-first approach and enhanced full-service agency capabilities
- improve print revenues and increase utilization of operating assets by maintaining profitable print and distribution services to third parties
- continue to align costs with revenue, maintain strong liquidity to support future business and product initiatives, and provide flexibility to meet strategic investment opportunities and other cash flow requirements

### **Competition**

A. H. Belo's newspapers, niche publications and related websites primarily serve audiences in the North Texas area. The Company competes for advertising revenue for its newspapers and websites with other print and agency companies. Advertising revenues for the Company's newspapers and websites are responsive to circulation and traffic volumes, demographics of their subscriber bases, advertising results, rates and customer service. Advertising on digital platforms is highly competitive and largely dominated by large internet companies. As advertisers reallocate marketing expenditures from print to digital channels, the Company believes its strong local brand and its full-service agency capabilities will allow it to offer exclusive advertising and digital marketing solutions to local businesses on a competitive scale.

*The Dallas Morning News* has the highest paid print circulation in the North Texas area while competing with one other metropolitan newspaper in parts of its geographic market. Print circulation revenues are challenged primarily due to free and readily-accessible news, entertainment, advertising and other content available through the internet. This secular shift from print to digital media continues as consumer lifestyles embrace technological advancements, particularly with mobile devices, which provide access to a wide variety of digital news and advertising alternatives, including news and social media websites, online advertising networks and exchanges, online classified services, and direct email advertising. Competition for readers is primarily based on mode of delivery, quality of the Company's journalism, price, timeliness of interaction with audiences, and customer service. News and other digital content produced by the Company's newspapers and niche publications are available via its websites, mobile applications and through email. The Company offers competitive technology for accessing digital content on mobile devices and via personal computers. Journalists engage online readers through blogs, Twitter and other social media posts.

### **Seasonality**

A. H. Belo's advertising revenues are subject to moderate seasonality, with print and digital advertising revenue typically higher in the fourth calendar quarter of each year because of the holiday shopping season. However, in the fourth quarter of 2020 print advertising revenue was adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The level of print and digital advertising sales in any period may also be affected by advertisers' decisions to increase or decrease their advertising expenditures in response to anticipated consumer demand and general economic conditions.

### **Employees**

As of December 31, 2020, the Company had 743 employees of which approximately 18 percent were represented by a labor union, pending contract finalization. The Company is in the process of negotiating an initial collective bargaining agreement and it cannot predict the timing or the outcome of these negotiations.

### **Available Information**

A. H. Belo maintains its corporate website at [www.ahbelo.com](http://www.ahbelo.com), which makes available, free of charge, this Annual Report on Form 10-K, its Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, its Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports, as filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after the reports are electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 2. Properties**

<b>Operations</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Location</b>
Corporate and <i>The Dallas Morning News</i>	Leased	Dallas, Texas
Printing facilities	Owned	Plano, Texas
AHC Dallas Properties, LLC	Leased	Denton, Texas
Sales operations	Leased	Dallas, Texas
Shared mail packaging office and warehouse	Leased	Phoenix, Arizona

In addition to the properties above, the Company has various leased locations it uses for news reporting and the distribution of the Company's publications, and it leases property in Tulsa, Oklahoma used for sales operations. As of December 31, 2020, in aggregate, the Company leased facilities for current use consisting of approximately 293,000 square feet and owns property that includes land and a building consisting of approximately 1,258,000 square feet.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

A number of legal proceedings are pending against A. H. Belo. In the opinion of management, liabilities, if any, arising from these legal proceedings would not have a material adverse effect on A. H. Belo's results of operations, liquidity or financial condition. A. H. Belo and its subsidiaries may be subject to litigation, including matters relating to alleged libel or defamation, governmental proceedings and investigations. Adverse determinations in any such matters could require A. H. Belo to make monetary payments or result in other sanctions or findings that could adversely affect the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations. Insurance coverage, if any, may not be adequate to cover all costs and/or losses. In some instances, the Company may have a contractual obligation from a third-party to indemnify liabilities related to litigation or governmental investigation, but if the third-party fails to indemnify us, the Company would be responsible for monetary damages.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

None.



## PART II

### Item 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The Company’s authorized common equity consists of 125,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share. The Company has two series of common stock outstanding, Series A and Series B. Shares of the two series are identical in all respects except as noted herein. Shares of Series B common stock are entitled to 10 votes per share on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, and shares of Series A common stock are entitled to one vote per share. Transferability of the Series B common stock is limited to family members and affiliated entities of the holder. Shares of Series B common stock are convertible at any time on a one-for-one basis into shares of Series A common stock and upon a transfer, other than as described above, shares of Series B common stock automatically convert into Series A common stock. Shares of the Company’s Series A common stock are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE trading symbol: AHC) and began trading on February 11, 2008. There is no established public trading market for shares of Series B common stock.

The declaration of dividends is subject to the discretion of A. H. Belo’s board of directors. The determination as to the amount declared and its timing depends on, among other things, A. H. Belo’s results of operations and financial condition, capital requirements, other contractual restrictions, prospects, applicable law, general economic and business conditions and other future factors that are deemed relevant. The board of directors generally declares dividends during the quarter preceding its stated measurement and payment dates. A. H. Belo cannot provide any assurance that future dividends will be declared and paid due to the factors discussed in the “Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements” and elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The table below sets forth the high and low sales prices reported on the New York Stock Exchange for a share of the Company’s common stock and the recorded cash dividends per share declared for the past two years.

	Stock Price			Dividends Declared*
	High	Low	Close	
<b>2020</b>				
Fourth quarter	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.51	\$ 0.04
Third quarter	1.85	1.33	1.41	0.04
Second quarter	2.09	1.29	1.73	0.08
First quarter	3.05	1.45	1.72	0.08
<b>2019</b>				
Fourth quarter	\$ 3.83	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.80	\$ 0.08
Third quarter	3.78	3.35	3.64	0.08
Second quarter	4.08	3.50	3.69	0.08
First quarter	4.47	3.36	3.72	0.08

\*Cash dividends are recorded in the period declared. This table reflects the period the dividends were paid.

The closing price of the Company’s Series A common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on March 4, 2021, was \$2.06. The approximate number of shareholders of record of the Company’s Series A and Series B common stock at the close of business on March 4, 2021, was 342 and 144, respectively.

#### Equity Compensation Plan Information

The information set forth under the heading “Equity Compensation Plan Information” contained in the definitive Proxy Statement for the Company’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders, to be held on May 13, 2021, is incorporated herein by reference.

#### Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The Company repurchased shares of its common stock pursuant to a publicly announced share repurchase program authorized by the Company’s board of directors. During 2019, the Company purchased 216,490 shares of its Series A common stock at a total cost of \$842. The agreement to repurchase the Company’s stock expired in the fourth quarter of 2019 and was not renewed. All purchases were made through open market transactions and were recorded as treasury stock.

#### Sales of Unregistered Securities

During 2020 and 2019, shares of the Company’s Series B common stock in the amounts of 225 and 247, respectively, were converted, on a one-for-one basis, into shares of Series A common stock. The Company did not register the issuance of these securities under the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”) in reliance upon the exemption under Section 3(a)(9) of the Securities Act.

## Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

A. H. Belo intends for the discussion of its financial condition and results of operations that follows to provide information that will assist in understanding its financial statements, the changes in certain key items in those statements from period to period, and the primary factors that accounted for those changes, as well as how certain accounting principles, policies and estimates affect its financial statements. The following information should be read in conjunction with the Company’s consolidated financial statements and related notes filed as part of this report. All dollar amounts presented herein, except share and per share amounts, are in thousands, unless the context indicates otherwise.

This section and other parts of this Annual Report on Form 10-K contain certain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those statements. See the [Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements](#) of this Annual Report for further discussion.

### OVERVIEW

A. H. Belo Corporation (“A. H. Belo” or the “Company”), headquartered in Dallas, Texas, is the leading local news and information publishing company in Texas. The Company has a growing presence in emerging media and digital marketing, and maintains capabilities related to commercial printing, distribution and direct mail. A. H. Belo delivers news and information in innovative ways to a broad range of audiences with diverse interests and lifestyles.

The Company publishes *The Dallas Morning News* ([www.dallasnews.com](http://www.dallasnews.com)), Texas’ leading newspaper and winner of nine Pulitzer Prizes, and various niche publications targeting specific audiences. Its newspaper operations also provide commercial printing and distribution services to several large national newspapers. In addition, the Company has the capabilities of a full-service strategy, creative and media agency that focuses on strategic and digital marketing, and data intelligence that provide a measurable return on investment to its clients.

In the third quarter of 2019, in conjunction with a strategic change to move to a single decision-making reporting structure and based on how the Company’s chief operating decision-maker makes decisions about allocating resources and assessing performance, the Company determined it has one reportable segment. With this reorganization, the Company has focused on enhancing its capabilities to provide customers with strategic, creative and media marketing solutions.

Currently, the rapid spread of coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic) globally has resulted in increased travel restrictions, and disruption and shutdown of businesses. The outbreak and any preventative or protective actions that the Company has taken and may continue to take, or may be imposed on the Company by governmental intervention, in respect of the pandemic may result in a period of disruption to the Company’s financial reporting capabilities, its printing operations, and its operations generally. COVID-19 is impacting, and may continue to impact, the Company’s customers, distribution partners, advertisers, production facilities, and third parties, and could result in additional loss of advertising revenue or supply chain disruption. Media was designated an essential business, therefore the Company’s operations have continued throughout the pandemic. While digital subscriptions grew in 2020, the Company experienced decreased demand for its print and digital advertising. As a result, the Company implemented measures to reduce costs and preserve cash flow. These measures include reduction in the quarterly dividend rate, decreases in employee compensation, as well as reductions in discretionary spending. In addition, the Company benefited from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”). However, these measures may not be sufficient to fully offset the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Company’s business and, as such, the coronavirus is likely to continue to have an adverse impact on the Company’s business, results of operations and financial condition at least for the near term.

### Overview of Significant Transactions

Operating results for 2020 reflect continued challenges in print advertising revenue trends, primarily due to volume and rate declines, partially offset by an increase in the Company's digital-only subscriptions revenue. In addition, the Company did experience declines resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic beginning late in the first quarter. The Company continues its efforts to diversify revenues through greater development of its digital platforms for delivery of news and advertising, and leveraging its brand and personnel to enhance its media agency solutions. However, there is no guarantee the Company will be able to generate enough digital revenue or margin to offset the loss of print advertising and circulation revenue and margin.

During the year ended December 31, 2020, the Company performed a review of potential impairment indicators for its long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment, and right-of-use assets. The Company determined there were indicators of possible impairment and conducted a long-lived assets impairment review. Upon completion, it was determined the undiscounted cash flows including from ultimate disposition of the assets exceeded the carrying value of the asset group, thus no impairment was indicated. See [Note 5 – Leases](#) for additional information on right-of-use asset impairment.

In the third quarter of 2019, in conjunction with the Company's organizational changes, the Company conducted an impairment review of goodwill and long-lived assets. As a result, the Company's goodwill was fully impaired in the third quarter of 2019.

In response to COVID-19, the CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides numerous tax provisions and other stimulus measures. The Company has benefited from the temporary five-year net operating loss carryback provision and the technical correction for qualified leasehold improvements, which changes 39-year property to 15-year property, eligible for 100 percent tax bonus depreciation. Applying the technical correction to 2018 has resulted in reporting additional tax depreciation of \$1,017 and increased the 2018 net operating loss to approximately \$6,829. The loss was carried back against 2014 taxes paid at the federal statutory rate of 35 percent that was previously in effect, resulting in a cash refund of \$2,425, including interest, received on October 2, 2020. Additionally, The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (the "Act"), which includes The COVID-related Tax Relief Act of 2020 and the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, was passed and signed into law the last week of 2020. Among others, the provisions in the Act included items such as guidance on expenses associated with forgiven Paycheck Protection Program loans, business meals deductions, individual tax rebates and unemployment benefits. The Company did not avail itself of any of the items contained in the new Act.

Quarterly dividends returned \$5,139 and \$6,876 to shareholders in 2020 and 2019, respectively. On December 3, 2020, the Company's board of directors declared a \$0.04 per share dividend to shareholders of record as of the close of business on February 12, 2021, paid on March 5, 2021.

In April 2019, the Company completed an asset acquisition. The new entity Cubic Creative, Inc. ("Cubic Creative") is located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This acquisition added creative strategy services, which complement service offerings currently available to A. H. Belo clients. The expected benefit from providing these additional services was attributed to goodwill, all of which is expected to be deductible for tax purposes. Operating results of the businesses acquired have been included in the Consolidated Statements of Operations from the initial acquisition date forward.

In May 2019, the Company completed the sale of the real estate assets in downtown Dallas, Texas, previously used as the Company's headquarters for a sale price of \$28,000. The sale price consisted of \$4,597 cash received, after selling costs of approximately \$1,000, and a two-year seller-financed promissory note of \$22,400, secured by a first lien deed of trust covering the property. In the second quarter of 2019, the Company recorded a pretax gain of \$25,908. Due to the offset by existing net operating loss carryforwards, the Company did not record any current tax expense related to the sale transaction. As a direct result of COVID-19 uncertainties, on April 3, 2020, the Company entered into a board-approved amendment to the two-year seller-financed promissory note. The second promissory note in the principal amount of \$375 is secured by a second lien deed of trust covering the property and due June 30, 2021. The second promissory note includes a deferred interest payment that was due April 1, 2020, and a 2019 real property tax reconciliation payment due from the Purchaser. While it is anticipated that future interest payments will be made on a timely basis there is not a guarantee that the Purchaser will perform. The timing in general of commercial development may have been impacted by the pandemic, and thus capital constraints in commercial real estate markets may exist. Management continues to closely monitor the collectability of the notes and the value of the underlying collateral. Continued economic and other effects of the pandemic could impact the timing of payment or realization of the notes.

In 2019, the Company purchased 216,490 shares of its Series A common stock through open market transactions for \$842. However, the agreement to repurchase the Company's stock expired in the fourth quarter of 2019 and was not renewed. These purchases are recorded as treasury stock.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****Consolidated Results of Operations**

This section contains discussion and analysis of net operating revenue, operating costs and expense and other information relevant to an understanding of results of operations for 2020 and 2019. In the third quarter of 2019, in conjunction with the Companies organizational changes, the Company determined it has one reportable segment (see [Note 2 – Segment Reporting](#)). The Company determined that disaggregating revenue by print and digital products best aligns with the Company’s structure.

The table below sets forth the components of A. H. Belo’s operating income (loss).

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>	<b>2019</b>
Advertising and marketing services	\$ 72,214	(24.7) %	\$ 95,856
Circulation	64,935	(4.9) %	68,260
Printing, distribution and other	17,150	(11.8) %	19,447
<b>Total Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>154,299</b>	<b>(15.9) %</b>	<b>183,563</b>
<b>Total Operating Costs and Expense</b>	<b>169,872</b>	<b>(2.4) %</b>	<b>174,024</b>
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (15,573)</b>	<b>(263.3) %</b>	<b>\$ 9,539</b>

Traditionally, the Company’s primary revenues are generated from advertising within its core newspapers, niche publications and related websites and from subscription and single copy sales of its printed newspapers. As a result of competitive and economic conditions, the newspaper industry has faced a significant revenue decline over the past decade. Therefore, the Company has sought to diversify its revenues through development and investment in new product offerings, increased circulation rates and leveraging of its existing assets to offer cost efficient commercial printing and distribution services to its local markets. The Company continually evaluates the overall performance of its core products to ensure existing assets are deployed adequately to maximize return.

The Company’s advertising revenue from its core newspapers continues to be adversely affected by the shift of advertiser spending to other forms of media and the increased accessibility of free online news content, as well as news content from other sources, which resulted in declines in advertising and paid print circulation volumes and revenue. Decreases in print display and classified categories are indicative of continuing trends by advertisers towards digital platforms, which are widely available from many sources. In the current environment, companies are allocating more of their advertising spending towards programmatic channels that provide digital advertising on multiple platforms with enhanced technology for targeted delivery and measurement. In addition, the Company did experience declines resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic beginning late in the first quarter.

In response to the decline in print revenue, the Company has developed agency and digital advertising capabilities through multiple media channels. The Company leverages its news content to improve engagement on the Company’s digital platforms that results in increased digital subscriptions and associated revenue. The Company also continues to diversify its revenue base by leveraging the available capacity of its existing assets to provide print and distribution services for newspapers and other customers requiring these services, by introducing new advertising and marketing services products, and by increasing circulation prices.

Because of declining print circulation, the Company has developed broad digital strategies designed to provide readers with multiple platforms for obtaining online access to local news. The Company redesigned and expanded its website platforms and mobile applications in 2019 to provide a better customer experience with its digital news and information content. The Company continues to obtain additional key demographic data from readers, which allows the Company to provide content desired by readers and to modify marketing and distribution strategies to target and reach audiences valued by advertisers. The Company has access to programmatic digital advertising platform that provides digital ad placement and targeting efficiencies and increases utilization of digital inventory within the Company’s websites and external websites.

**Advertising and marketing services revenue**

Advertising and marketing services revenue was 46.8 percent and 52.2 percent of total revenue for 2020 and 2019, respectively.

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2020	Percentage Change	2019
Print advertising	\$ 46,318	(25.6) %	\$ 62,256
Digital advertising and marketing services	25,896	(22.9) %	33,600
<b>Advertising and Marketing Services</b>	<b>\$ 72,214</b>	<b>(24.7) %</b>	<b>\$ 95,856</b>

**Print advertising**

Print advertising is comprised of display, classified and preprint advertising revenue. Display and classified print revenue primarily represents sales of advertising space within the Company's core and niche newspapers. As advertisers continue to diversify marketing budgets to incorporate more and varied avenues of reaching consumers, traditional display and classified advertising continues to decline. Display and classified print revenue decreased \$9,637 and \$3,635 in 2020 and 2019, respectively, primarily due to a revenue decline in most advertising categories, with the largest declines in the retail categories. In addition to the general trends adversely impacting the publishing industry, the Company experienced unfavorable impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, which started in the latter part of the first quarter of 2020.

Preprint revenue primarily reflects preprinted advertisements inserted into the Company's core newspapers and niche publications, or distributed to non-subscribers through the mail. Revenue decreased \$6,301 and \$3,327 in 2020 and 2019, respectively, due to a volume decline consistent with the decline in circulation volumes discussed below, which were significantly affected in 2020 by the pandemic.

**Digital advertising and marketing services**

Digital advertising and marketing services revenue consists of strategic marketing management, consulting, creative services, targeted and multi-channel (programmatic) advertising placed on third-party websites, digital sales of banner, classified and native advertisements on the Company's news and entertainment-related websites and mobile apps, social media management, search optimization, direct mail and the sale of promotional materials. The Company's auto sales division offered targeted advertising to auto dealerships primarily in the North Texas region desiring to advertise their inventory on the [cars.com](#) platform through September 30, 2019.

Revenue decreased \$7,704 and \$2,610 in 2020 and 2019, respectively, primarily due to the [cars.com](#) agreement ending, and a lower volume of programmatic sales placed on third-party websites and online advertisements on [dallasnews.com](#).

**Circulation revenue**

Circulation revenue was 42.1 percent and 37.2 percent of total revenue for 2020 and 2019, respectively.

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2020	Percentage Change	2019
Print circulation	\$ 58,415	(7.7) %	\$ 63,321
Digital circulation	6,520	32.0 %	4,939
<b>Circulation</b>	<b>\$ 64,935</b>	<b>(4.9) %</b>	<b>\$ 68,260</b>

**Print circulation**

Revenue decreased in 2020 primarily driven by volume declines, partially offset by rate increases. Home delivery revenue decreased \$3,043 or 5.5 percent, and single copy revenue decreased \$1,863 or 24.7 percent primarily due to the significant reduction in the number of locations selling newspapers as a result of the pandemic. Circulation revenue from home delivery and single copy revenue is expected to continue to decline as audiences are shifting to subscribing for news from digital platforms.

Revenue decreased in 2019 primarily due to a decline in home delivery revenue, driven by a volume decline of 28.2 percent. The volume declines were partially offset by rate increases. Single copy revenue also decreased compared to prior year, due to single copy paid print circulation volume declines of 22.1 percent.

**Digital circulation**

Revenue increased in 2020 and 2019, due to an increase in digital-only subscriptions. In 2020, digital-only subscriptions increased 36.8 percent when compared to December 31, 2019, primarily resulting from a broad interest in news topics including the presidential election and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Printing, distribution and other revenue**

Printing, distribution and other revenue was 11.1 percent and 10.6 percent of total revenue for 2020 and 2019, respectively.

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<i>2020</i>	<i>Percentage Change</i>	<i>2019</i>
<b>Printing, Distribution and Other</b>	<b>\$ 17,150</b>	<b>(11.8) %</b>	<b>\$ 19,447</b>

Revenue decreased 2020, primarily due to a decline in brokered and commercial printing revenue partially offset by an increase in shared mail packaging revenue.

Revenue decreased in 2019 primarily due to the Company eliminating its brokered printing business, in the first quarter of 2019, in which it provided services direct to small business clients. Additionally, the Company reduced the number of local and national commercial print customers it serves from more than 30 to 5. This strategic decision to streamline operations was implemented to improve operating income.

**Operating Costs and Expense**

The table below sets forth the components of the Company's operating costs and expense.

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>	<b>2019</b>
Employee compensation and benefits	\$ 71,772	(10.4) %	\$ 80,134
Other production, distribution and operating costs	80,008	(11.8) %	90,673
Newsprint, ink and other supplies	10,168	(38.6) %	16,570
Depreciation	7,016	(21.9) %	8,983
Amortization	255	(48.5) %	495
(Gain) loss on sale/disposal of assets, net	90	100.4 %	(24,540)
Asset impairments	563	(67.1) %	1,709
<b>Total Operating Costs and Expense</b>	<b>\$ 169,872</b>	<b>(2.4) %</b>	<b>\$ 174,024</b>

**Employee compensation and benefits** – The Company continues to implement measures to optimize its workforce and evaluate strategies to reduce risk associated with future obligations for employee benefit plans. Employee compensation and benefits decreased \$8,362 and \$9,170 in 2020 and 2019, respectively, primarily due to headcount reductions within the Company. Additionally in 2020, employees' base compensation was reduced Company-wide starting in the second quarter in order to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In August 2020, the Company began to restore base salaries and by October, the Company restored base salaries prospectively for all employees, with the exception of the executive officers that report to the Chief Executive Officer. The executive officers' base salaries will be restored effective January 1, 2021. In 2019, headcount decreased primarily due to the Company's strategic decision, in the first quarter of 2019, to eliminate its brokered printing business and reduce the number of local and national commercial print customers it serves.

**Other production, distribution and operating costs** – Expense decreased \$10,665 in 2020, reflecting savings as the Company continued to manage discretionary spending and implemented measures to reduce costs in response to the unfavorable financial impact of the pandemic, including expense reductions in outside services, advertising and promotion, and travel and entertainment. Additionally, distribution expense decreased related to delivery of the Company's various publications and products. Expense remained flat in 2019 due to the management of discretionary spending, offset by \$1,920 of expense related to a strategy review with an outside consulting firm in the second quarter of 2019.

**Newsprint, ink and other supplies** – Expense decreased \$6,402 in 2020, due to competitive pricing available under its paper supply agreement, reduced newsprint costs associated with lower circulation volumes and a decline in commercial printing. Expense decreased in 2019 due to lower circulation volumes and the elimination of brokered printing for small business clients. Newsprint consumption approximated 9,781 and 11,619 metric tons in 2020 and 2019, respectively, at an average cost per metric ton of \$549 and \$751, respectively.

**Depreciation** – Expense decreased in 2020 and 2019 due to a lower depreciable asset base as a higher level of in-service assets are now fully depreciated. The Company has reduced capital spending, but it is committed to investing the appropriate levels of capital to sustain existing operations.

**Amortization** – Expense decreased in 2020 due to an intangible asset being fully amortized in 2019, and the only remaining intangible asset to be amortized is comprised of customer relationships. Expense decreased in 2019 due to the impairment of intangible assets in the fourth quarter of 2018.

**(Gain) loss on sale/disposal of assets, net** – In 2020, the Company disposed of assets and sold production-related assets that were no longer in use. Additionally, in the fourth quarter the Company sold assets related to the production of promotional materials that will be outsourced beginning in 2021. In 2019, the Company completed the sale of real estate previously used as the Company's headquarters for \$28,000, resulting in a pretax gain of \$25,908. In addition, the Company recorded a loss of \$1,362 on the disposal of newspaper production assets, as a result of reduced brokered and commercial printing, and publishing software that was replaced by a new digital content platform.

**Asset impairments** – In 2020, the Company subleased office space in Dallas, Texas at a lower rate than the head lease, and accordingly an asset impairment of \$461 was recorded in the fourth quarter. In the third quarter of 2019, in conjunction with the Company's organizational changes, the Company conducted an impairment review of goodwill and long-lived assets. As a result, the Company recorded a noncash goodwill impairment charge of \$1,593 in the third quarter of 2019, fully impairing goodwill.



**Other**

The table below sets forth the other components of the Company's results of operations.

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2020	Percentage Change	2019
Other income, net	\$ 7,014	68.2 %	\$ 4,169
Income tax provision (benefit)	\$ (1,687)	(138.2) %	\$ 4,416

**Other income, net** – Other income, net includes net periodic pension and other post-employment benefit of \$4,627 and \$3,259 for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, resulting from a favorable return on pension assets, partially offset by a decrease in the discount rate. Interest income (expense), primarily interest received of \$897 and \$395 in the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, on the promissory note from the sale of the Company's former headquarters, and gain (loss) from investments are also included in other income, net. On September 24, 2020, the Company's shares of eSite Analytics, Inc. ("eSite") were repurchased by eSite for \$750, recognized in other income, net.

**Income tax provision (benefit)** – A tax benefit of \$(1,687) was recorded in 2020. The benefit was primarily due to the recognition of the 2018 net operating loss carryback permitted by the CARES Act, partially offset by the effect of the Texas margin tax.

A tax provision of \$4,416 was recorded in 2019. The provision was primarily due to annual income before income taxes, primarily a result of income generated from the sale of the Company's former headquarters (see [Note 14 – Disposal of Assets](#)), the Texas margin tax and an increase in the valuation allowance due to a change in judgement as to the realization of the Company's deferred tax assets.

**Legal proceedings** – From time to time, the Company is involved in a variety of claims, lawsuits and other disputes arising in the ordinary course of business. Management routinely assesses the likelihood of adverse judgments or outcomes in these matters, as well as the ranges of probable losses to the extent losses are reasonably estimable. Accruals for contingencies are recorded when, in the judgment of management, adverse judgments or outcomes are probable and the financial impact, should an adverse outcome occur, is reasonably estimable. The determination of likely outcomes of litigation matters relates to factors that include, but are not limited to, past experience and other evidence, interpretation of relevant laws or regulations and the specifics and status of each matter. Predicting the outcome of claims and litigation and estimating related costs and financial exposure involves substantial uncertainties that could cause actual results to vary materially from estimates and accruals. In the opinion of management, liabilities, if any, arising from other currently existing claims against the Company would not have a material adverse effect on A. H. Belo's results of operations, liquidity or financial condition.

**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

A. H. Belo's consolidated financial statements reflect the application of accounting policies that require management to make significant estimates and assumptions. The Company believes that the following are the critical accounting policies, estimates and assumptions currently affecting A. H. Belo's financial position and results of operations. See the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, [Note 1 – Significant Accounting Policies and Recently Issued Accounting Standards](#), for additional information concerning significant accounting policies.

**Revenue Recognition.** The Company's principal sources of revenue are sales of advertising within its newspaper and digital platforms, subscription and retail sales of its newspapers, commercial printing and distribution services, primarily related to national newspapers, and preprint advertising. In addition, revenue includes strategic marketing management, consulting, creative services, targeted and multi-channel (programmatic) advertising placed on third-party websites, social media management, search optimization, direct mail and the sale of promotional materials.

Advertising and marketing services revenue is primarily recognized at a point in time when the ad or service is complete and delivered, based on the customers' contract price. Barter advertising transactions are recognized at estimated fair value based on the negotiated contract price and the range of prices for similar advertising from customers unrelated to the barter transaction. The Company expenses barter costs as incurred, which is independent from the timing of revenue recognition. In addition, certain digital advertising revenue related to website access is recognized over time, based on the customers' monthly rate.

For ads placed on certain third-party websites, the Company must evaluate whether it is acting as the principal, where revenue is reported on a gross basis, or acting as the agent, where revenue is reported on a net basis. Generally, the Company reports advertising revenue for ads placed on third-party websites on a net basis, meaning the amount recorded to revenue is the amount billed to the customer net of amounts paid to the publisher of the third-party website. The Company is acting as the agent because the publisher controls the advertising inventory.



Circulation revenue is generated primarily by selling home delivery, including premium publications, and digital subscriptions, as well as single copy sales to non-subscribers for which revenue is recognized at a point in time when the paper is purchased. Home delivery revenue is recognized over the subscription period based on the days of actual delivery over the total subscription days. Revenue is directly reduced for any non-payment for the grace period of home delivery subscriptions where the Company recorded revenue for newspapers delivered after a subscription expired. Digital-only subscription revenue is recognized over the subscription period based on daily or monthly access to the content in the subscription period.

Printing, distribution and other revenue is primarily generated from printing and distribution of other newspapers, as well as production of preprinted advertisements for other newspapers. Printing, distribution and other revenue is recognized at a point in time when the product or service is delivered.

**Long-Lived Assets.** The Company evaluates its ability to recover the carrying value of property, plant and equipment and finite-lived intangible assets, using the lowest level of cash flows associated with the assets, which are grouped based on the Company's intended use of these assets. This evaluation is performed whenever a change in circumstances indicates that the carrying value of an asset group may not be recoverable. If the analysis of undiscounted future cash flows indicates the carrying value of the long-lived assets cannot be recovered, the assets are adjusted to the lower of its carrying value or fair value.

During the year ended December 31, 2020, the Company performed a review of potential impairment indicators for its long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment, and right-of-use assets. The Company determined there were indicators of possible impairment and conducted a long-lived assets impairment review. Upon completion, it was determined the undiscounted cash flows including from ultimate disposition of the assets exceeded the carrying value of the asset group, thus no impairment was indicated. See [Note 5 – Leases](#) for additional information on right-of-use asset impairment.

**Pension.** The Company follows accounting guidance for single-employer defined benefit plans. Plan assets and the projected benefits obligation are measured each December 31, and the Company records as an asset or liability for the net funded position of the plans. Certain changes in actuarial valuations related to returns on plan assets and projected benefit obligations are recorded to accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) and are amortized to net periodic pension expense (benefit) over the weighted average remaining life of plan participants, to the extent the cumulative balance in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) exceeds 10 percent of the greater of the respective plan's (a) projected benefit obligation or (b) the market-related value of the plan's assets. Net periodic pension expense (benefit) is recognized each period by accruing interest expense on the projected benefit obligation and accruing a return on assets associated with the plan assets. Participation in and accrual of new benefits to participants has been frozen since 2007 and, accordingly, on-going service costs are not a component of net periodic pension expense (benefit). From time to time, the Company-sponsored plans may settle pension obligations with certain plan participants through the plans' master trust as part of its de-risking strategies. The gains or losses associated with settlements of plan obligations to participants are recognized to earnings if such settlements exceed the interest component of net periodic pension cost for the year. Otherwise, such amounts are included in actuarial gains (losses) in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). Re-measurement of plan assets and liabilities upon a significant settlement or curtailment event is performed based on the values of the month-end closest to the event.

The projected benefit obligations of the A. H. Belo Pension Plans are estimated using the FTSE Pension Discount Curve, which is based upon a portfolio of high-quality corporate debt securities with maturities that correlate to the expected timing of estimated benefit payments to the Pension Plans' participants. Future estimated benefit payments are discounted to their present value at the appropriate yield curve spot rate to determine the projected benefit obligation outstanding at each year end. The single equivalent discount rate as of December 31, 2020 was 2.1 percent and 2.9 percent for December 31, 2019.

Interest expense included in net periodic pension benefit is based on the FTSE Pension Discount Curve established at the beginning of the fiscal year. The discount rate for fiscal year 2020 and 2019 interest cost was 2.9 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively.

The Company assumed a 6.5 percent long-term return on the Pension Plans' assets in 2020 and 2019. This return is based upon historical returns of similar investment pools having asset allocations consistent with the expected allocations of the A. H. Belo Pension Plans. Investment strategies for the Pension Plans' assets are based upon factors such as the effective duration of the actuarial liabilities and market risks.

**Income Taxes.** The Company uses the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes and recognizes deferred tax assets and liabilities based on the difference between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates. The Company establishes a valuation allowance if it is more-likely-than-not that the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The factors used to assess the likelihood of realization of the deferred tax assets include future reversal of deferred tax liabilities, available tax planning strategies, future taxable income and taxable income in prior carryback years.

The Company evaluates any uncertain tax positions each reporting period by tax jurisdiction to determine if it is more-likely-than-not that the tax position will not be sustained on examination by the taxing authorities based on the technical merits of the position. The tax benefits recognized in the financial statements for such positions are measured based on the largest benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement. If a net operating loss or other tax credit carry forward exists, the Company records the unrecognized tax benefits for such tax positions as a reduction to a deferred tax asset. Otherwise, the unrecognized tax benefits are recorded as a liability. The Company records a liability for uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. Any change in judgment related to the expected ultimate resolution of uncertain tax positions is recognized in earnings in the period in which such change occurs. Interest and penalties, if any, related to unrecognized tax benefits are recorded in other income, net.

### **Recent Accounting Standards**

See the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, [Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies and Recently Issued Accounting Standards](#), regarding the impact of certain recent accounting pronouncements.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The Company's cash balances as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, were \$42,015 and \$48,626, respectively. The decrease in the cash balance during 2020 was primarily due to the return of capital to shareholders through dividends and the net loss from operations.

The Company intends to hold existing cash for purposes of future investment opportunities, potential return of capital to shareholders and for contingency purposes. Although revenue is expected to continue to decline in future periods, cash flows and other cost cutting measures are expected to be sufficient to fund operating activities and capital spending of approximately \$1,000 in 2021.

The future approval of dividends is dependent upon available cash after considering future operating and investing requirements and cannot be guaranteed. The Company continues to have a board-authorized repurchase authority. However, the agreement to repurchase the Company's stock expired in the fourth quarter of 2019 and was not renewed.

As a result of the recent COVID-19 outbreak that began in January 2020, the Company is experiencing an increase in digital subscriptions, which currently does not offset the loss of advertising revenue. On April 6, 2020, the Company announced that it was taking several actions to reduce cash outflow in response to the financial impact of COVID-19. The Company reduced operating expenses, reduced capital expenditures to less than \$1,000 in 2020, and lowered the quarterly dividend rate to \$0.04 per share for dividends declared. Beginning with the 2020 annual meeting of shareholders, the board of directors' compensation was reduced and the board was reduced in size by two. In addition, employees' base compensation was reduced Company-wide, and the annual bonus tied to financial metrics for eligible employees was not achieved. In August 2020, the Company began to restore base salaries and by October, the Company restored base salaries prospectively for all employees, with the exception of the executive officers that report to the Chief Executive Officer. The executive officers' base salaries will be restored effective January 1, 2021.

In response to COVID-19, the CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides numerous tax provisions and other stimulus measures. The Company has benefited from the temporary five-year net operating loss carryback provision and the technical correction for qualified leasehold improvements, which changes 39-year property to 15-year property, eligible for 100 percent tax bonus depreciation. Applying the technical correction to 2018 has resulted in reporting additional tax depreciation of \$1,017 and increased the 2018 net operating loss to approximately \$6,829. The loss was carried back against 2014 taxes paid at the federal statutory rate of 35 percent that was previously in effect, resulting in a cash refund of \$2,425, including interest, received on October 2, 2020. Additionally, the Act, which includes The COVID-related Tax Relief Act of 2020 and the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, was passed and signed into law the last week of 2020. The Company did not avail itself of any of the items contained in the new Act.

As a direct result of COVID-19 uncertainties, on April 3, 2020, the Company and the Purchaser entered into an amendment to the two-year seller-financed promissory note of \$22,400, for the sale of the real estate assets previously used as the Company's headquarters. The second promissory note, in the principal amount of \$375, includes a deferred interest payment of \$195 that was due April 1, 2020, and a 2019 real property tax reconciliation payment due from the Purchaser. The Company evaluated the collectability of the notes as a result of the purchaser's request to defer the first quarter 2020 interest payment and the continuation of the pandemic. Management believes as of December 31, 2020, the promissory notes are recoverable since the purchaser is in compliance with the terms, is publicly indicating its intent to develop the property, and management believes that the value of the collateral has not materially changed from the sale date. In addition, on January 4, 2021, the Purchaser paid the fourth quarter 2020 interest payment of \$253.

The Company continues to evaluate the future material impacts on its consolidated financial statements that may result from the actions taken by the Company and its customers in respect of the pandemic.

The following discusses the changes in cash flows by operating, investing and financing activities in 2020 and 2019.

### **Operating Cash Flows**

Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities was \$(1,490) and \$1,205 in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Cash flows from operating activities decreased by \$2,695 in 2020, when compared to the prior year period. The decrease was driven primarily by the net loss of \$6,872 in 2020, and changes in working capital and other operating assets and liabilities, partially offset by the CARES Act refund of \$2,425 and the sale of IP addresses for \$744.

Cash flows from operating activities decreased in 2019 compared to 2018, primarily due to federal income tax refunds of \$7,305 received in 2018 and changes in working capital and other operating assets and liabilities.

### **Investing Cash Flows**

Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities was \$18 and \$(174) in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Cash flows from investing activities increased in 2020 due to a reduction in capital spending of \$1,528 and cash proceeds of \$750 from the sale of the Company's eSite shares that were repurchased by eSite in the third quarter of 2020. The Company reduced its capital spending plan for 2020 in response to the financial impact of COVID-19 as discussed above.

Cash flows used for investing activities decreased in 2019 compared to 2018, due to a reduction in capital spending of \$3,241 and cash proceeds of \$4,597 from the sale of real estate previously used as the Company's headquarters, partially offset by the acquisition of Cubic Creative for \$2,356.

### **Financing Cash Flows**

Net cash used for financing activities was \$5,139 and \$7,718 in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Cash used for financing activities included total dividends paid of \$5,139 and \$6,876 in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

In 2019, the Company purchased 216,490 shares of its Series A common stock at a total cost of \$842 under its board-authorized repurchase authority. However, the agreement to repurchase the Company's stock expired in the fourth quarter of 2019 and was not renewed.

### **Financing Arrangements**

None.

## **Contractual Obligations**

As of December 31, 2020, the Company had contractual obligations, in aggregate, of \$16,436 for the next five years and \$19,691 thereafter, for operating leases, primarily for office space and other distribution centers, some of which include escalating lease payments. See [Note 5 – Leases](#) for future lease payments by year. In addition, the Company had expected purchase obligations of \$117 related to capital expenditures.

In December 2017, AHC Dallas Properties, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, assumed a 12-year lease agreement for office space that serves as the headquarters of the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. In connection with the sale of Denton Publishing Company, owner of the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, to Denton Media Company, Inc., the Company entered into a sublease with Denton Publishing Company for a term ending on July 30, 2023. While it is anticipated that lease payments will be made on a timely basis there is not a guarantee. If Denton Publishing Company is not able to meet the obligation, the Company may look to alternative sublease arrangements.

In December 2016, the Dallas Morning News, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, entered into a 16-year lease agreement for office space for the Company's new corporate headquarters. The Company recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis. Per the amended lease agreement, rent payments began in November 2018.

The Company currently does not expect to make contributions to the A. H. Belo Pension Plans in 2021 and no contributions are required to these plans in 2021 under the applicable tax and labor laws governing pension plan funding.

On December 3, 2020, the Company's board of directors declared a \$0.04 per share dividend to shareholders of record as of the close of business on February 12, 2021, paid on March 5, 2021. On March 4, 2021, the Company's board of directors declared a \$0.04 per share dividend to shareholders of record as of the close of business on May 14, 2021, which is payable on June 4, 2021.

## **Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

The consolidated financial statements, together with the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firms, are included herein starting on page 28 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## **Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

None.

## **Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, are controls that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing disclosure controls and procedures, management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible disclosure controls and procedures. The design of any disclosure controls and procedures is also based, in part, upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions.

The Company's management, with the participation of its Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2020. Based on that evaluation, management concluded that, as of such date, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

### **Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

The management of A. H. Belo is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, an assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting was conducted as of December 31, 2020. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO") in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013). Based on this assessment using the criteria set forth by COSO in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013), management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2020.

### **Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Except as related to the material weaknesses and mitigation activities described below, there have been no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the fourth fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2020, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

### **Remediation of Prior Year Material Weaknesses**

As disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019, the Company identified material weaknesses in its internal control over financial reporting, which resulted from control deficiencies related to certain process-level controls over the accuracy and occurrence of revenue. In addition, certain process-level controls that were implemented during 2019 to remediate the previously reported material weaknesses related to occurrence of revenue were not operating for a sufficient period of time as of December 31, 2019. The Company's management, with oversight from the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company, actively engaged in remediation efforts to address these material weaknesses. Management has taken a number of actions to remediate the 2019 material weaknesses including the following:

- Enhanced certain process-level controls over the accuracy and occurrence of revenue.
- Reviewed the design of all process-level revenue controls and added controls or enhanced controls, as needed.
- Completed enhanced training of personnel who have financial reporting or internal control responsibilities in conjunction with the review of the design and operating effectiveness of all revenue controls.

During the fourth quarter of 2020, the Company completed its testing of the new or enhanced controls. Based on the foregoing remediation activities and testing of controls, management determined that the material weaknesses were remediated and the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2020.

## PART III

### Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

The information set forth under the headings “A. H. Belo Corporation Stock Ownership,” “Proposal One: Election of Directors,” “Corporate Governance – Committees of the Board – *Audit Committee*,” “Corporate Governance – Committees of the Board – *Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee*,” and “Information About Our Executive Officers” contained in the definitive Proxy Statement for the Company’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 13, 2021, is incorporated herein by reference.

A. H. Belo has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all directors, officers and employees, which can be found at the Company’s website, [www.ahbelo.com](http://www.ahbelo.com). The Company will post any amendments to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, as well as any waivers that are required to be disclosed by the rules of either the SEC or the New York Stock Exchange, on the Company’s website. Information on A. H. Belo’s website is not incorporated by reference into this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The Company’s board of directors adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines and charters for the Audit, Compensation and Management Development, and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees of the Board of Directors. These documents can be found at the Company’s website, [www.ahbelo.com](http://www.ahbelo.com).

Shareholders can also obtain, without charge, printed copies of any of the materials referred to above by contacting the Company at the following address:

A. H. Belo Corporation  
P. O. Box 224866  
Dallas, Texas 75222-4866  
Attn: Investor Relations  
Telephone: (214) 977-7342

### Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information set forth under the headings “Corporate Governance – Committees of the Board – *Compensation and Management Development Committee*,” “Executive Compensation – Summary Compensation Table, – Change in Control Arrangements and Other Agreements Upon Termination of Employment, – Potential Payments on Change in Control or Upon Termination of Employment at December 31, 2020,” “Corporate Governance – “Director Compensation” contained in the definitive Proxy Statement for the Company’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 13, 2021, is incorporated herein by reference.

### Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

The information set forth under the headings “A. H. Belo Corporation Stock Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers” and “Equity Compensation Plan Information” contained in the definitive Proxy Statement for the Company’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 13, 2021, is incorporated herein by reference.

Information regarding the number of shares of common stock authorized for issuance under the Company’s equity compensation plans is included in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, [Note 1 – Significant Accounting Policies and Recently Issued Accounting Standards](#).

### Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

The information set forth under the heading “Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions” and “Corporate Governance – Director Independence” contained in the definitive Proxy Statement for the Company’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 13, 2021, is incorporated herein by reference.

### Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The information set forth under the heading “Proposal Two: Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” contained in the definitive Proxy Statement for the Company’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 13, 2021, is incorporated herein by reference.

**PART IV****Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules**

- (1) The consolidated financial statements listed in the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the table of contents are filed as part of this report.
- (2) All financial statement schedules were omitted because they are not applicable, are not required, or the required information is shown in the consolidated financial statements or notes thereto.
- (3) Exhibits:

Exhibits marked with an asterisk (\*) are incorporated by reference to documents previously filed by the Company with the SEC, as indicated. In accordance with Regulation S-T, the XBRL-related information marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) in Exhibit No. 101 to this Annual Report on Form 10-K is deemed filed. All other documents are filed with this report. Exhibits marked with a tilde (~) are management contracts, compensatory plan contracts or arrangements filed pursuant to Item 601(b)(10)(iii)(A) of Regulation S-K.

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
2.1	* <a href="#">Agreement and Plan of Merger dated April 23, 2018 by and between A. H. Belo Corporation and A. H. Belo Texas, Inc. (Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 23, 2018 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741) (the "April 23, 2018 Form 8-K"))</a>
3.1	* <a href="#">Certificate of Formation of A. H. Belo Corporation (successor to A. H. Belo Texas, Inc.) (Exhibit 3.1 to the April 23, 2018 Form 8-K)</a>
3.2	* <a href="#">Certificate of Merger (Delaware) of A. H. Belo Corporation with and into A. H. Belo Texas, Inc. (Exhibit 3.3 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 2, 2018 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741) (the "July 2, 2018 Form 8-K"))</a>
3.3	* <a href="#">Certificate of Merger (Texas) of A. H. Belo Corporation with and into A. H. Belo Texas, Inc. (Exhibit 3.4 to the July 2, 2018 Form 8-K)</a>
3.4	* <a href="#">Bylaws of A. H. Belo Corporation (successor to A. H. Belo Texas, Inc.) (Exhibit 3.2 to the April 23, 2018 Form 8-K)</a>
	(1) * <a href="#">Amendment No. 1 to the Amended and Restated Bylaws of A. H. Belo Corporation (Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 6, 2020 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741) (the "April 6, 2020 Form 8-K"))</a>
	(2) * <a href="#">Amendment No. 2 to the Amended and Restated Bylaws of A. H. Belo Corporation (Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 4, 2020 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
4.1(a)	* Certain rights of the holders of the Company's Common Stock set forth in Exhibits 3.1-3.4 above
4.1(b)	* <a href="#">Description of Capital Stock (Exhibit 4.1 to the July 2, 2018 Form 8-K)</a>
4.2	* <a href="#">Specimen Form of Certificate representing shares of the Company's Series A Common Stock (Exhibit 4.2 to the July 2, 2018 Form 8-K)</a>
4.3	* <a href="#">Specimen Form of Certificate representing shares of the Company's Series B Common Stock (Exhibit 4.3 to the July 2, 2018 Form 8-K)</a>
10.1	* Material Contracts
	(1) * <a href="#">Sublease Agreement for Old Dallas Library Building dated December 30, 2016 (Exhibit 10.1 to A. H. Belo Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 3, 2017 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741) (the "January 3, 2017 Form 8-K"))</a>
	(2) * <a href="#">Guaranty of Lease dated December 30, 2016 (Exhibit 10.2 to the January 3, 2017 Form 8-K)</a>
	(3) * <a href="#">Paper Supply Agreement effective as of August 5, 2019, by and between The Dallas Morning News, Inc. and Gannett Supply Corporation (Exhibit 10.1 to A. H. Belo Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 6, 2019 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>



Exhibit Number	Description
(4)	* <a href="#">Purchase and Sale Agreement effective as of May 17, 2019, by and between The Dallas Morning News, Inc. and Charter DMN Holdings, LP, together with related Promissory Note dated May 17, 2019, in the original principal amount of \$22.4 million made by Charter DMN Holdings, LP, payable to The Dallas Morning News, Inc. (Exhibit 10.1 to A. H. Belo Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 17, 2019 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
	* (a) <a href="#">Modification Agreement effective April 1, 2020 to Promissory Note dated May 17, 2020 (Exhibit 10.1 to the April 6, 2020 Form 8-K)</a>
	* (b) <a href="#">Promissory Note (Interest and Property Tax Reconciliation) effective April 1, 2020 (Exhibit 10.2 to the April 6, 2020 Form 8-K)</a>
10.2	* Compensatory plans and arrangements:
~(1)	* <a href="#">A. H. Belo Savings Plan as Amended and Restated Effective January 1, 2015 (Exhibit 10.2(1) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 6, 2015 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
	* (a) <a href="#">First Amendment to the A. H. Belo Savings Plan effective January 1, 2016 (Exhibit 10.2(1)(a) to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 1, 2016 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
	* (b) <a href="#">Second Amendment to the A. H. Belo Savings Plan effective September 8, 2016 (Exhibit 10.2(1)(b) to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 1, 2016 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
	* (c) <a href="#">Third Amendment to the A. H. Belo Savings Plan dated September 7, 2017 (Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 8, 2017 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741)(the "September 8, 2017 Form 8-K"))</a>
	* (d) <a href="#">Fourth Amendment to the A. H. Belo Savings Plan (Exhibit 10.2 to the July 2, 2018 Form 8-K)</a>
	* (e) <a href="#">Fifth Amendment to the A. H. Belo Savings Plan dated November 27, 2018 (Exhibit 10.2(1)(E) to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 29, 2019 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741)(the "1st Quarter 2019 Form 10-Q"))</a>
	* (f) <a href="#">Sixth Amendment to the A. H. Belo Savings Plan dated April 1, 2019 (Exhibit 10.2(1)(F) to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019 Form 10-Q)</a>
	* (g) <a href="#">Seventh Amendment to the A. H. Belo Savings Plan dated December 1, 2019 (Exhibit 10.2(1)(G) to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 14, 2020 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
	* (h) <a href="#">Eighth Amendment to the A. H. Belo Savings Plan dated July 23, 2020 (Exhibit 10.2(1)(H) to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 28, 2020 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
~(2)	* <a href="#">A. H. Belo 2017 Incentive Compensation Plan (Exhibit I to A. H. Belo Corporation's Schedule 14A Proxy Statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 28, 2017)</a>
	* (a) <a href="#">First Amendment to the A. H. Belo 2017 Incentive Compensation Plan (Exhibit 10.1 to the July 2, 2018 Form 8-K)</a>
	* (b) <a href="#">Form of A. H. Belo 2017 Incentive Compensation Plan Evidence of Grant (for Non-Employee Directors) (Exhibit 10.1 to A. H. Belo Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 12, 2017 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741)(the "May 12, 2017 Form 8-K"))</a>
	* (c) <a href="#">Form of A. H. Belo 2017 Incentive Compensation Plan Evidence of Grant (for Employee Awards) (Exhibit 10.2 to the May 12, 2017 Form 8-K)</a>
~(3)	* <a href="#">Form of A. H. Belo Cash Long-Term Incentive Compensation Evidence of Grant (for Employee Awards) (Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 14, 2019 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
~(4)	* <a href="#">A. H. Belo Corporation Change In Control Severance Plan (Exhibit 10.7 to the February 12, 2008 Form 8-K)</a>
	* (a) <a href="#">Amendment to the A. H. Belo Change in Control Severance Plan dated March 31, 2009 (Exhibit 10.3 to the April 2, 2009 Form 8-K)</a>
~(5)	* <a href="#">Robert W. Decherd Compensation Arrangements dated June 19, 2013 (Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 19, 2013)</a>



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Exhibit Number	Description
10.3 *	Agreements relating to the separation of A. H. Belo from its former parent company:
(1)	* <a href="#">Pension Plan Transfer Agreement by and between Belo Corp. and A. H. Belo Corporation dated as of October 6, 2010 (Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 8, 2010 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
(2)	* <a href="#">Agreement among the Company, Belo Corp., and The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, effective March 9, 2011 (Exhibit 10.3(6) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2011 (Securities and Exchange Commission File No. 001-33741))</a>
21	<a href="#">Subsidiaries of the Company</a>
23.1	<a href="#">Consent of Grant Thornton LLP</a>
24	<a href="#">Power of Attorney (set forth on the signature page(s) hereof)</a>
31.1	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</a>
31.2	<a href="#">Certification of principal financial officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</a>
32	<a href="#">Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and principal financial officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</a>
101.INS	** Inline XBRL Instance Document – the instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document
101.SCH	** Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	** Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	** Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	** Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	** Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
104	** Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101)

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

A. H. BELO CORPORATION

By: /s/ Robert W. Decherd  
Robert W. Decherd  
Chairman of the Board, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: March 10, 2021

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

The undersigned hereby constitute and appoint Robert W. Dechard and Katy Murray, and each of them and their substitutes, our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact with full power to execute in our name and behalf in the capacities indicated below any and all amendments to this report and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and hereby ratify and confirm all that such attorneys-in-fact, or any of them, or their substitutes shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Company and in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>/s/ Robert W. Dechard</u> Robert W. Dechard	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer	March 10, 2021
<u>/s/ John A. Beckert</u> John A. Beckert	Director	March 10, 2021
<u>/s/ Louis E. Caldera</u> Louis E. Caldera	Director	March 10, 2021
<u>/s/ Ronald D. McCray</u> Ronald D. McCray	Director	March 10, 2021
<u>/s/ Katy Murray</u> Katy Murray	Executive Vice President/ Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	March 10, 2021

## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders  
A. H. Belo Corporation

### Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of A. H. Belo Corporation (a Texas corporation) and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), shareholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended December 31, 2020, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Critical audit matter

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current period audit of the financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that: (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

#### *Assessment of impairment of long-lived assets*

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Company identified indicators of possible impairment of its long-lived assets during the year ended December 31, 2020 and performed impairment testing by comparing the estimated undiscounted cash flows including from the eventual disposal of the long-lived assets to the carrying value of the asset group.

We identified the determination of the asset group, the primary asset associated with the asset group, and the estimate of the cash flows from disposition of certain assets upon disposal of the asset group at the end of the remaining useful life of the primary asset as a critical audit matter.

The principal considerations for our determination that this represents a critical audit matter is the judgment, complexity and subjectivity involved in management’s analysis. The analysis required estimation of the cash flows associated with the disposal of the asset group at the end of the useful life of the primary asset. This analysis involved the use of a specialist to assist with determining the cash flows from disposal of certain assets of the group.

Our audit procedures related to the analysis included the following, among others:

- We obtained an understanding of and evaluated the design of controls over the Company's process to evaluate long-lived assets for impairment, including controls over management's review of the significant considerations, including identification of the asset group and the primary asset and the cash flows from disposition of certain assets upon disposal of the asset group, as described above.
- We assessed the appropriateness of management's identification of asset groups and the primary asset within the asset group.
- We recalculated the carrying value for the identified asset group.
- We assessed the reasonableness of the methodologies and significant inputs used to estimate the cash flows from disposal of certain assets of the group, which consisted of the identification of comparable market transactions and estimation of the cash flows from disposal of assets associated with land, buildings and improvements with the assistance of our valuation specialists, and
- We tested the completeness and accuracy of the underlying data used by the Company in its analysis.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2018.

Dallas, Texas  
March 10, 2021

**A. H. Belo Corporation and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Operations**

<i>In thousands, except share and per share amounts</i>	<i>Years Ended December 31,</i>	
	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
<b>Net Operating Revenue:</b>		
Advertising and marketing services	\$ 72,214	\$ 95,856
Circulation	64,935	68,260
Printing, distribution and other	17,150	19,447
Total net operating revenue	154,299	183,563
<b>Operating Costs and Expense:</b>		
Employee compensation and benefits	71,772	80,134
Other production, distribution and operating costs	80,008	90,673
Newsprint, ink and other supplies	10,168	16,570
Depreciation	7,016	8,983
Amortization	255	495
(Gain) loss on sale/disposal of assets, net	90	(24,540)
Asset impairments	563	1,709
Total operating costs and expense	169,872	174,024
Operating income (loss)	(15,573)	9,539
Other income, net	7,014	4,169
<b>Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes</b>	<b>(8,559)</b>	<b>13,708</b>
Income tax provision (benefit)	(1,687)	4,416
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (6,872)</b>	<b>\$ 9,292</b>
<b>Per Share Basis</b>		
Net income (loss)		
Basic and diluted	\$ (0.32)	\$ 0.43
Number of common shares used in the per share calculation:		
Basic and diluted	21,410,423	21,546,257

See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**A. H. Belo Corporation and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

<i>In thousands</i>	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	\$ (6,872)	\$ 9,292
<b>Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), Net of Tax:</b>		
Amortization of actuarial losses	876	247
Actuarial gains (losses)	(1,050)	5,100
Total other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	(174)	5,347
<b>Total Comprehensive Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (7,046)</b>	<b>\$ 14,639</b>

See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**A. H. Belo Corporation and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheets**

<i>In thousands, except share amounts</i>	<i>December 31, 2020</i>	<i>December 31, 2019</i>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 42,015	\$ 48,626
Accounts receivable (net of allowance of \$712 and \$671 at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively)	16,562	18,441
Notes receivable	22,775	—
Inventories	1,974	2,573
Prepaids and other current assets	4,780	5,164
Total current assets	<u>88,106</u>	<u>74,804</u>
Property, plant and equipment, at cost	312,532	343,893
Less accumulated depreciation	(300,573)	(325,440)
Property, plant and equipment, net	11,959	18,453
Operating lease right-of-use assets	20,406	21,371
Intangible assets, net	64	319
Deferred income taxes, net	76	50
Long-term note receivable	—	22,400
Other assets	2,604	3,648
Total assets	<u>\$ 123,215</u>	<u>\$ 141,045</u>
<b>Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 7,759	\$ 6,103
Accrued compensation and benefits	5,754	7,407
Other accrued expense	5,075	5,930
Contract liabilities	12,896	12,098
Total current liabilities	<u>31,484</u>	<u>31,538</u>
Long-term pension liabilities	18,520	23,039
Long-term operating lease liabilities	21,890	23,120
Other post-employment benefits	1,372	1,347
Other liabilities	3,541	4,264
Total liabilities	<u>76,807</u>	<u>83,308</u>
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value; Authorized 2,000,000 shares; none issued	—	—
Common stock, \$0.01 par value; Authorized 125,000,000 shares		
Series A: issued 20,855,200 and 20,854,975 shares at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively	209	209
Series B: issued 2,469,083 and 2,469,308 shares at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively	24	24
Treasury stock, Series A, at cost; 1,913,860 shares held at December 30, 2020 and 2019	(13,443)	(13,443)
Additional paid-in capital	494,389	494,389
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(32,468)	(32,294)
Accumulated deficit	(402,303)	(391,148)
Total shareholders' equity	<u>46,408</u>	<u>57,737</u>
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	<u>\$ 123,215</u>	<u>\$ 141,045</u>

See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.



**A. H. Belo Corporation and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity**

<i>In thousands, except share amounts</i>	Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019								
	Common Stock			Additional Paid-in Capital	Treasury Stock		Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Accumulated Deficit	Total
	Shares Series A	Shares Series B	Amount		Shares Series A	Amount			
Balance at December 31, 2018	20,854,728	2,469,555	\$ 233	\$ 494,389	(1,697,370)	\$ (12,601)	\$ (37,641)	\$ (393,582)	\$ 50,798
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,292	9,292
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,347	—	5,347
Shares repurchased	—	—	—	—	(216,490)	(842)	—	—	(842)
Conversion of Series B to Series A	247	(247)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dividends declared (\$0.32 per share)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(6,858)	(6,858)
Balance at December 31, 2019	20,854,975	2,469,308	\$ 233	\$ 494,389	(1,913,860)	\$ (13,443)	\$ (32,294)	\$ (391,148)	\$ 57,737
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(6,872)	(6,872)
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	(174)	—	(174)
Conversion of Series B to Series A	225	(225)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dividends declared (\$0.20 per share)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(4,283)	(4,283)
Balance at December 31, 2020	20,855,200	2,469,083	\$ 233	\$ 494,389	(1,913,860)	\$ (13,443)	\$ (32,468)	\$ (402,303)	\$ 46,408

See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**A. H. Belo Corporation and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

<i>In thousands</i>	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Net income (loss)	\$ (6,872)	\$ 9,292
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	7,271	9,478
Net periodic pension and other post-employment benefit	(4,627)	(3,259)
Bad debt expense	425	828
Deferred income taxes	(26)	3,522
(Gain) loss on sale/disposal of assets, net	90	(24,540)
Asset impairments	563	1,709
Gain on investment related activity	(732)	—
Changes in working capital and other operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:		
Accounts receivable	1,079	3,525
Inventories, prepaids and other current assets	881	1,198
Other assets	1,026	1,381
Accounts payable	1,656	(693)
Compensation and benefit obligations	(1,653)	(2,682)
Other accrued expenses	(1,328)	859
Contract liabilities	798	649
Other post-employment benefits	(41)	(62)
Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities	<u>(1,490)</u>	<u>1,205</u>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Purchases of assets	(887)	(2,415)
Sales of assets	155	4,597
Proceeds from sale of investment	750	—
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	—	(2,356)
Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities	<u>18</u>	<u>(174)</u>
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
Dividends paid	(5,139)	(6,876)
Shares repurchased	—	(842)
Net cash used for financing activities	<u>(5,139)</u>	<u>(7,718)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(6,611)	(6,687)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	48,626	55,313
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	<u>\$ 42,015</u>	<u>\$ 48,626</u>

See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**A. H. Belo Corporation and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements**

**Note 1: Significant Accounting Policies and Recently Issued Accounting Standards**

**Description of Business.** A. H. Belo Corporation and subsidiaries are referred to collectively herein as “A. H. Belo” or the “Company.” The Company, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, is the leading local news and information publishing company in Texas. The Company has a growing presence in emerging media and digital marketing, and maintains capabilities related to commercial printing, distribution and direct mail. A. H. Belo delivers news and information in innovative ways to a broad range of audiences with diverse interests and lifestyles.

The Company publishes *The Dallas Morning News* ([www.dallasnews.com](http://www.dallasnews.com)), Texas’ leading newspaper and winner of nine Pulitzer Prizes, and various niche publications targeting specific audiences. Its newspaper operations also provide commercial printing and distribution services to several large national newspapers. In addition, the Company has the capabilities of a full-service strategy, creative and media agency that focuses on strategic and digital marketing, and data intelligence that provide a measurable return on investment to its clients.

**COVID-19 Pandemic.** Currently, the rapid spread of coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic) globally has resulted in increased travel restrictions, and disruption and shutdown of businesses. The outbreak and any preventative or protective actions that the Company has taken and may continue to take, or may be imposed on the Company by governmental intervention, in respect of the pandemic may result in a period of disruption to the Company’s financial reporting capabilities, its printing operations, and its operations generally. COVID-19 is impacting, and may continue to impact, the Company’s customers, distribution partners, advertisers, production facilities, and third parties, and could result in additional loss of advertising revenue or supply chain disruption. The Company has been following the recommendations of local government and health authorities to minimize exposure risk for employees, including the temporary closure of some of the Company’s offices and having employees work remotely. Employees, including financial reporting staff, have been working remotely since on or about March 10, 2020, even as the stay-at-home orders were lifted in Texas. If the pandemic were to affect a significant number of the workforce employed in printing operations, the Company may experience delays or be unable to produce, print and deliver its publications and other third-party print publications on a timely basis. The extent to which the coronavirus impacts the Company’s results will depend on future developments, which are highly uncertain and include the actions taken by governments and private businesses to contain the coronavirus. The coronavirus is likely to continue to have an adverse impact on the Company’s business, results of operations and financial condition at least for the near term.

Media was designated an essential business, therefore the Company’s operations have continued throughout the pandemic. The Company is experiencing an increase in digital subscriptions, which currently does not offset the loss of advertising revenue. On April 6, 2020, the Company announced that it was taking several actions in response to the financial impact of COVID-19. The Company reduced operating and capital expenditures, and lowered the quarterly dividend rate to \$0.04 per share for dividends declared. Beginning with the 2020 annual meeting of shareholders, the board of directors’ compensation was reduced and the board was reduced in size by two. In addition, employees’ base compensation was reduced Company-wide, and the annual bonus tied to financial metrics for eligible employees was not achieved. In August 2020, the Company began to restore base salaries and by October, the Company restored base salaries prospectively for all employees, with the exception of the executive officers that report to the Chief Executive Officer. The executive officers’ base salaries will be restored effective January 1, 2021. The Company continues to evaluate the future material impacts on its consolidated financial statements that may result from the actions taken by the Company and its customers in respect of the pandemic.

**Basis of Presentation.** The consolidated financial statements included herein have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) and include the accounts of the Company and its majority owned subsidiaries over which the Company exercises control. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. All dollar amounts presented herein, except share and per share amounts, are in thousands, unless the context indicates otherwise.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect (i) the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, (ii) the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities known to exist as of the date the financial statements are published, and (iii) the reported amount of net operating revenues and expenses recognized during the periods presented. Adjustments made with respect to the use of estimates often relate to improved information not previously available. Uncertainties with respect to such estimates and assumptions are inherent in the preparation of financial statements; accordingly, actual results could differ from these estimates.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused increased uncertainty in management’s estimates and assumptions affecting these consolidated financial statements. Areas where significant estimates are used include pension and other post-employment benefit obligation assumptions, income taxes, leases, self-insured liabilities, and long-lived assets impairment review.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents.** The Company considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Company places its cash and cash equivalents with high credit quality institutions. The Company has not experienced any losses in such accounts and believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

**Accounts Receivable.** Accounts receivable are reported net of a valuation reserve that represents an estimate of amounts considered uncollectible. The Company estimates the allowance for doubtful accounts based on historical write-off experience and the Company's knowledge of the customers' ability to pay amounts due. Accounts are written-off after all collection efforts fail; generally, after one year has expired. Expense for such uncollectible amounts is included in other production, distribution and operating costs. Credit terms are customary. Bad debt expense for 2020 and 2019 was \$425 and \$828, respectively. Write-offs, net of recoveries and other adjustments for 2020 and 2019 were \$384 and \$738, respectively.

**Risk Concentration.** A significant portion of the Company's customer base is concentrated within the North Texas geographical area. The Company generally extends credit to customers, and the ultimate collection of accounts receivable could be affected by the national and local economy, which currently is being impacted by the pandemic. Management continually performs credit evaluations of its customers and may require cash in advance or other special arrangements from certain customers. The Company maintains an allowance for losses based upon the collectability of accounts receivable. Management does not believe significant credit risk exists that could have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial condition, liquidity or results of operations.

**Notes Receivable.** Notes receivable are recorded net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. Notes receivable are related to the financed portion of the sale of the Company's former headquarters (see [Note 14 – Disposal of Assets](#)). Interest income is accrued on the unpaid principal balance, included in other income, net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. The Company puts notes receivable on non-accrual status and provides an allowance against accrued interest if it is determined the likelihood of collecting substantially all of the note and accrued interest is not probable. Notes are written-off against the allowance when all possible means of collection have been exhausted and the potential for recovery is considered remote. As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, there was no allowance recorded for the notes receivable.

**Inventories.** Inventories, consisting primarily of newsprint, ink and other supplies used in printing newspapers, are recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost is determined by the weighted average purchase price of the inventory acquired.

**Property, Plant and Equipment.** The Company records property, plant and equipment at cost or its fair value if acquired through a business acquisition or non-monetary exchange. Depreciation is recorded on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets and depreciable assets are reviewed to ensure the remaining useful life of the assets continues to be appropriate. An adjustment resulting from a change in the estimated useful life of an asset is recorded to depreciation expense on a prospective basis.

The table below sets forth property, plant and equipment by type.

	<u>December 31,</u>		Estimated Useful Lives
	2020	2019	
Land	\$ 1,971	\$ 2,191	
Buildings and improvements	85,468	85,316	5 - 30 years
Publishing equipment	173,078	174,019	3 - 20 years
Other	51,876	80,678	3 - 10 years
Construction in process	139	1,689	
Total	<u>312,532</u>	<u>343,893</u>	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(300,573)</u>	<u>(325,440)</u>	
Property, plant and equipment, net	<u>\$ 11,959</u>	<u>\$ 18,453</u>	

**Long-Lived Assets.** The Company evaluates its ability to recover the carrying value of property, plant and equipment and finite-lived intangible assets, using the lowest level of separately identifiable cash flows associated with the assets, which are grouped based on the Company's intended use of these assets. This evaluation is performed whenever a change in circumstances indicates that the carrying value of an asset group may not be recoverable. If the analysis of undiscounted future cash flows indicates the carrying value of the long-lived assets cannot be recovered, the assets are adjusted to the lower of its carrying value or fair value.

During the year ended December 31, 2020, the Company performed a review of potential impairment indicators for its long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment, and right-of-use assets. The Company determined there were indicators of possible impairment and conducted a long-lived assets impairment review. Upon completion, it was determined the undiscounted cash flows including from ultimate disposition of the assets exceeded the carrying value of the asset group, thus no impairment was indicated. See [Note 5 – Leases](#) for additional information on right-of-use asset impairment.

**Pension.** The Company follows accounting guidance for single-employer defined benefit plans. Plan assets and the projected benefit obligation are measured each December 31, and the Company records as an asset or liability the net funded position of the plans. Certain changes in actuarial valuations related to returns on plan assets and projected benefit obligations are recorded to accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) and are amortized to net periodic pension expense (benefit) over the weighted average remaining life of plan participants, to the extent the cumulative balance in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) exceeds 10 percent of the greater of the respective plan's (a) projected benefit obligation or (b) the market-related value of the plan's assets. Net periodic pension expense (benefit) is recognized each period by accruing interest expense on the projected benefit obligation and accruing a return on assets associated with the plan assets. Participation in and accrual of new benefits to participants has been frozen since 2007 and, accordingly, on-going service costs are not a component of net periodic pension expense (benefit). From time to time, the Company-sponsored plans may settle pension obligations with certain plan participants through the plans' master trust as part of its de-risking strategies. The gains or losses associated with settlements of plan obligations to participants are recognized to earnings if such settlements exceed the interest component of net periodic pension cost for the year. Otherwise, such amounts are included in actuarial gains (losses) in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). Re-measurement of plan assets and liabilities upon a significant settlement or curtailment event is performed based on the values of the month-end closest to the event.

**Long-Term Incentive Plan.** The Company sponsored a long-term incentive plan (the "Plan") under which it issued restricted stock units ("RSUs") and cash awards to directors and certain employees of the Company. Due to the expiration of the Plan in February 2018, A. H. Belo implemented, and shareholders approved, a new long-term incentive plan (the "2017 Plan") under which 8,000,000 shares of the Company's Series A and Series B common stock are authorized and remain available for equity-based awards. Like its predecessor plan, awards under the 2017 Plan may be granted to A. H. Belo employees and outside directors in the form of non-qualified stock options, incentive stock options, restricted share awards, RSUs, performance shares, performance units or stock appreciation rights.

As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, there were no stock-based awards outstanding.

**Shareholders' Equity.** The Company authorized the issuance of shares of Series A and Series B common stock. Series A common stock has one vote per share and Series B common stock has 10 votes per share. Shares of Series B common stock are convertible at any time on a share-for-share basis into shares of Series A common stock, but not vice versa.

The Company is authorized to grant stock option and RSU awards to employees and directors of the Company. Upon vesting of RSUs, shares of Series A common stock are issued. Upon the exercise of stock options, Series A common stock is issued if the holder of the stock options executes a simultaneous exercise and sale. If the holder of the stock option chooses not to sell the shares, Series B common stock is issued.

In 2012, the Company's board of directors authorized the purchase of the A. H. Belo Series A or Series B common stock, for use other than retirement, through open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions or otherwise. Treasury stock acquired under the repurchase program is recorded at cost, reducing shareholders' equity. The acquired shares are available for sale on the open market or for settlement of obligations related to future stock-based awards, if granted.

Accumulated other comprehensive loss consists of actuarial gains and losses associated with the A. H. Belo Pension Plans (the "Pension Plans") and other post-employment benefit (the "OPEB") plans. The cumulative balances are amortized to earnings over the weighted average remaining life expectancy of the participants to the extent such balances exceed 10 percent of the greater of the respective plan's (a) projected benefit obligation or (b) the market-related value of the plan's assets. The Company discloses amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss to net income (loss) in [Note 10 - Shareholders' Equity](#).

**Revenue Recognition.** The Company's principal sources of revenue are sales of advertising within its newspaper and digital platforms, subscription and retail sales of its newspapers, commercial printing and distribution services, primarily related to national newspapers, and preprint advertising. In addition, revenue includes strategic marketing management, consulting, creative services, targeted and multi-channel (programmatic) advertising placed on third-party websites, social media management, search optimization, direct mail and the sale of promotional materials.

Revenue is recognized when obligations under the terms of a contract with our customer are satisfied. This occurs when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to our customers, in an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services, typically at contract price or determined by stand-alone selling price. The Company has an estimated allowance for credits, refunds and similar obligations. Sales tax collected concurrent with revenue-producing activities are excluded from revenue. See [Note 4 - Revenue](#) for disaggregated revenue by source.

**Leases.** The Company determines if a contract is a lease at the inception of the arrangement. Operating lease right-of-use assets and liabilities are recognized at commencement date of lease agreements greater than one year based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term. In determining the present value of lease payments, the implicit rate was not readily determinable in the Company's lease agreements. Therefore, the Company used an estimated secured incremental borrowing rate, based on the Company's credit rating, adjusted for the weighted average term of each lease. Lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term and variable lease costs are expensed as incurred. For leases with terms of 12 months or less, no asset or liability is recorded and lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The exercise of lease renewal options are at the Company's sole discretion and options are recognized when it is reasonably certain the Company will exercise the option. The recognized right-of-use assets and lease liabilities as calculated do not assume renewal options. The Company does not have lease agreements with residual value guarantees, sale leaseback terms or material restrictive covenants. Additionally, the Company does not separately identify lease and nonlease components, such as maintenance costs.

**Income Taxes.** The Company uses the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes and recognizes deferred tax assets and liabilities based on the difference between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates. The Company establishes a valuation allowance if it is more-likely-than-not that the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The factors used to assess the likelihood of realization of the deferred tax assets include future reversal of deferred tax liabilities, available tax planning strategies, future taxable income and taxable income in prior carryback years.

The Company evaluates any uncertain tax positions each reporting period by tax jurisdiction to determine if it is more-likely-than-not that the tax position will not be sustained on examination by the taxing authorities, based on the technical merits of the position. The tax benefits recognized in the financial statements for such positions are measured based on the largest benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement. If a net operating loss or other tax credit carry forward exists, the Company records the unrecognized tax benefits for such tax positions as a reduction to a deferred tax asset. Otherwise, the unrecognized tax benefits are recorded as a liability. The Company records a liability for uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. Any change in judgment related to the expected ultimate resolution of uncertain tax positions is recognized in earnings in the period in which such change occurs. Interest and penalties, if any, related to unrecognized tax benefits are recorded in other income, net.

**Use of Estimates.** Company management makes estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts and disclosures reported in its financial statements and include valuation allowances for doubtful accounts, uncertain tax positions and deferred tax assets, fair value measurements, pension plan assets, pension plan obligations, actuarial liabilities related to self-insured risks, and assumptions related to long-lived assets impairment review. Estimates are based on past experience and other considerations reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

**Segments.** In the third quarter of 2019, in conjunction with a strategic change to move to a single decision-making reporting structure and based on how the Company's chief operating decision-maker makes decisions about allocating resources and assessing performance, the Company determined it has one reportable segment. See [Note 2 – Segment Reporting](#).

**Fair Value Measurements.** The Company's financial instruments, including cash, cash equivalents, accounts receivable, interest receivable, accounts payable and amounts due to customers are carried at cost, which approximates its fair value because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

#### **Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements.**

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-14 – *Compensation – Retirement Benefits – Defined Benefit Plans – General (Subtopic 715-20): Disclosure Framework – Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Defined Benefit Plans*. This update modifies the annual disclosure requirements for employers that sponsor defined benefit pension or other postretirement plans by removing disclosures that are no longer considered cost beneficial, clarifying the specific requirements of disclosures and adding disclosure requirements identified as relevant. The guidance will be effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2020. Early adoption is permitted. The Company adopted this standard retrospectively as of its fiscal year ending December 31, 2020, and it did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

In August 2018, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2018-15 – *Intangibles – Goodwill and Other – Internal-Use Software (Subtopic 350-40): Customer's Accounting for Implementation Costs Incurred in a Cloud Computing Arrangement That is a Service Contract*. This update clarifies the accounting for implementation costs incurred in a cloud computing arrangement, or hosting arrangement, that is a service contract. Costs for implementation activities incurred during the application development stage will be capitalized depending on the nature of the costs, while costs incurred during the preliminary project and post implementation stages will be expensed as the activities are performed. The capitalized implementation costs will be expensed over the term of the hosting arrangement. The guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, and interim periods within those fiscal years. The Company adopted ASU 2018-15 prospectively as of January 1, 2020, and it did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In December 2019, the FASB issued ASU 2019-12 – Income Taxes (Topic 740): Simplifying the Accounting for Income Taxes. ASU 2019-12 removes specific exceptions to the general principles in Topic 740 in order to reduce the complexity of its application. ASU 2019-12 also improves consistency and simplifies existing guidance by clarifying and amending certain specific areas of Topic 740. The guidance will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2020, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is permitted and is to be adopted prospectively, modified retrospectively or retrospectively depending on the associated exception. It was determined that only two of the items were applicable to the Company. These two items are the exception to the incremental approach for intra-period tax allocation and the exception in interim-period income tax accounting for year-to-date losses that exceed anticipated losses. Both of these items are to be adopted prospectively. The Company early adopted this standard prospectively in the third quarter of 2020, and it did not have a material impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

**New Accounting Pronouncements.** The FASB issued the following accounting pronouncements and guidance, which may be applicable to the Company but have not yet become effective.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13 – *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments*. This update requires financial assets measured at amortized cost basis to be presented at the net amount expected to be collected. The measurement of expected credit losses is based on relevant information about past events, including historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts that affect the collectibility of the reported amount. Since June 2016, the FASB issued clarifying updates to the new standard including changing the effective date for smaller reporting companies. The guidance will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2022, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the requirements of this update and has not yet determined its impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

#### **Note 2: Segment Reporting**

Based on the Company’s structure and organizational chart, the Company’s chief operating decision-maker (the “CODM”) is its Chief Executive Officer, Robert W. Decherd.

In the third quarter of 2019, in conjunction with a strategic change to move to a single decision-making reporting structure and based on how the Company’s CODM makes decisions about allocating resources and assessing performance, the Company determined it has one reportable segment. See [Note 4 – Revenue](#) for disaggregated revenue by source.

#### **Note 3: Acquisitions**

In April 2019, the Company completed the acquisition of certain assets of Cubic, Inc. for a cash purchase price of \$2,356, net of \$213 cash acquired. Transaction costs related to the purchase were a component of other production, distribution and operating costs in the Consolidated Statements of Operations and totaled \$92, of which \$0 and \$86 were incurred in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

The new entity Cubic Creative, Inc. (“Cubic Creative”) is located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This acquisition added creative strategy services, which complement service offerings currently available to A. H. Belo clients. The expected benefit from providing these additional services was attributed to goodwill, all of which is expected to be deductible for tax purposes.

The table below sets forth the finalized allocation of the purchase price.

	<u>Estimated Fair Value</u>
Working capital, net of acquired cash	\$ 228
Property, plant and equipment	25
Other intangible assets - customer relationships	510
Goodwill	1,593
Total	<u>\$ 2,356</u>

Operating results of the business acquired have been included in the Consolidated Statements of Operations from the acquisition date forward. Operating results for the year ended December 31, 2019, included Cubic Creative operating revenue of \$2,464 and pretax income of \$1,885. Pro forma results of the Company, assuming the acquisition had occurred at the beginning of each period presented, would not be materially different from the results reported. The fair value of the assets acquired would be classified as Level III assets (unobservable inputs) in the fair value hierarchy. In the third quarter of 2019, in conjunction with the Company’s organizational changes, the Company conducted an impairment review of goodwill and long-lived assets. As a result, the Company’s goodwill was fully impaired in the third quarter of 2019. As of January 1, 2020, Cubic Creative’s operations were fully incorporated into *The Dallas Morning News*.



**Note 4: Revenue**

The table below sets forth revenue disaggregated by revenue source.

	<i>Years Ended December 31,</i>	
	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
<b>Advertising and Marketing Services</b>		
Print advertising	\$ 46,318	\$ 62,256
Digital advertising and marketing services	25,896	33,600
Total	<u>\$ 72,214</u>	<u>\$ 95,856</u>
<b>Circulation</b>		
Print circulation	\$ 58,415	\$ 63,321
Digital circulation	6,520	4,939
Total	<u>\$ 64,935</u>	<u>\$ 68,260</u>
<b>Printing, Distribution and Other</b>	\$ 17,150	\$ 19,447
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u><b>\$ 154,299</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 183,563</b></u>

**Advertising and Marketing Services**

Print advertising revenue represents sales of advertising space within the Company's core and niche newspapers, as well as preprinted advertisements inserted into the Company's core newspapers and niche publications or distributed to non-subscribers through the mail.

Digital advertising and marketing services revenue consists of strategic marketing management, consulting, creative services, targeted and multi-channel (programmatic) advertising placed on third-party websites, digital sales of banner, classified and native advertisements on the Company's news and entertainment-related websites and mobile apps, social media management, search optimization, direct mail and the sale of promotional materials. The Company's auto sales division offered targeted advertising to auto dealerships primarily in the North Texas region desiring to advertise their inventory on the [cars.com](#) platform through September 30, 2019.

Advertising and marketing services revenue is primarily recognized at a point in time when the ad or service is complete and delivered, based on the customers' contract price. Barter advertising transactions are recognized at estimated fair value based on the negotiated contract price and the range of prices for similar advertising from customers unrelated to the barter transaction. The Company expenses barter costs as incurred, which is independent from the timing of revenue recognition. In addition, certain digital advertising revenue related to website access is recognized over time, based on the customers' monthly rate. The Company typically extends credit to advertising and marketing services customers, although for certain advertising campaigns the customer may pay in advance.

For ads placed on certain third-party websites, the Company must evaluate whether it is acting as the principal, where revenue is reported on a gross basis, or acting as the agent, where revenue is reported on a net basis. Generally, the Company reports advertising revenue for ads placed on third-party websites on a net basis, meaning the amount recorded to revenue is the amount billed to the customer net of amounts paid to the publisher of the third-party website. The Company is acting as the agent because the publisher controls the advertising inventory.

**Circulation**

Print circulation revenue is generated primarily by selling home delivery subscriptions, including premium publications, and from single copy sales to non-subscribers. Home delivery revenue is recognized over the subscription period based on the days of actual delivery over the total subscription days and single copy revenue is recognized at a point in time when the paper is purchased. Revenue is directly reduced for any non-payment for the grace period of home delivery subscriptions where the Company recorded revenue for newspapers delivered after a subscription expired.

Digital circulation revenue is generated by digital-only subscriptions and is recognized over the subscription period based on daily or monthly access to the content in the subscription period.

Payment of circulation fees is typically received in advance and deferred over the subscription period.



**Printing, Distribution and Other**

Printing, distribution and other revenue is primarily generated from printing and distribution of other newspapers, as well as production of preprinted advertisements for other newspapers. Printing, distribution and other revenue is recognized at a point in time when the product or service is delivered. The Company typically extends credit to printing and distribution customers.

**Deferred Revenue**

Deferred revenue is recorded when cash payments are received in advance of the Company's performance, including amounts which are refundable. The Company's primary sources of deferred revenue are from circulation subscriptions and advertising paid in advance of the service provided. These up-front payments are recorded upon receipt as contract liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and the revenue is recognized when the Company's obligations under the terms of the contract are satisfied. In the year ended December 31, 2020, the Company recognized \$10,567 of revenue that was included in the contract liabilities balance as of December 31, 2019. The Company typically recognizes deferred revenue within 1 to 12 months.

**Practical Expedients and Exemptions**

The Company generally expenses sales commissions and circulation acquisition costs when incurred because the amortization period would have been one year or less. These costs are recorded within employee compensation and benefits expense and other production, distribution and operating costs expense, respectively.

The Company does not disclose the value of unsatisfied performance obligations for contracts with an original expected length of one year or less and contracts for which revenue is recognized at the amount invoiced for services performed.

**Note 5: Leases**

The Company has various operating leases primarily for office space and other distribution centers, some of which include escalating lease payments and options to extend or terminate the lease. The Company's leases have remaining terms of less than 1 year to 13 years.

The Company subleases office space to the Denton Publishing Company and, beginning in the fourth quarter of 2020, office space in Dallas, Texas both with a remaining lease term of approximately three years. As a result of the Company subleasing office space in Dallas, Texas at a lower rate than the head lease, an asset impairment of \$461 was recorded in the fourth quarter. Additionally, the Company has various subleases with distributors, for distribution center space, with varying remaining lease terms of less than one year to two years and are cancellable with notice by either party. Sublease income is included in printing, distribution and other revenue in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. As of December 31, 2020, sublease income is expected to approximate \$720 in 2021, \$520 in 2022, and \$320 in 2023.

As of December 31, 2020, the Company did not have any significant operating leases that have not yet commenced.

The table below sets forth supplemental Consolidated Balance Sheet information for the Company's leases.

	Classification	December 31, 2020		December 31, 2019	
<b>Assets</b>					
Operating	Operating lease right-of-use assets	\$	20,406	\$	21,371
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Operating					
Current	Other accrued expense	\$	2,306	\$	1,579
Noncurrent	Long-term operating lease liabilities		21,890		23,120
Total lease liabilities		\$	24,196	\$	24,699
<b>Lease Term and Discount Rate</b>					
Operating leases					
Weighted average remaining lease term (years)			10.6		11.7
Weighted average discount rate (%)			7.4		7.5

The table below sets forth components of lease cost and supplemental cash flow information for the Company's leases.

	<b>Years Ended December 31,</b>	
	2020	2019
<b>Lease Cost</b>		
Operating lease cost	\$ 4,267	\$ 4,264
Short-term lease cost	14	135
Variable lease cost	573	576
Sublease income	(768)	(734)
Total lease cost	<u>\$ 4,086</u>	<u>\$ 4,241</u>

**Supplemental Cash Flow Information**

Cash paid for operating leases included in operating activities	\$ 4,143	\$ 4,115
Right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for operating lease liabilities	1,795	23,886

The table below sets forth the remaining maturities of the Company's lease liabilities as of December 31, 2020.

<b>Years Ending December 31,</b>	<b>Operating Leases</b>	
2021	\$	3,982
2022		4,232
2023		3,325
2024		2,467
2025		2,430
Thereafter		19,691
Total lease payments		<u>36,127</u>
Less: imputed interest		11,931
Total lease liabilities	<u>\$</u>	<u>24,196</u>

**Note 6: Intangible Assets**

The table below sets forth intangible assets as of December 31, 2020 and 2019.

	<b>December 31, 2020</b>	<b>December 31, 2019</b>
<b>Intangible Assets</b>		
Cost	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,030
Accumulated Amortization	(1,966)	(1,711)
Net Carrying Value	<u>\$ 64</u>	<u>\$ 319</u>

The intangible assets include \$1,520 of developed technology with an estimated useful life of five years, fully amortized in 2019, and \$510 of customer relationships with estimated useful lives of two years and net carrying value of \$64 that will be fully amortized in 2021. Aggregate amortization expense was \$255 and \$495 for 2020 and 2019, respectively.

**Note 7: Related Party Transactions**

In 2017, the Company extended a term note to eSite Analytics, Inc. ("eSite") of \$750. The note had a term of three years, matured February 8, 2020, and incurred interest at a rate of 5.5 percent. The note provided for quarterly interest and principal payments of approximately \$60. In March 2019, the Company extended a line of credit of \$200 to eSite. In November 2019, the \$200 line of credit was rolled into the term note and the note was extended until September 30, 2022. As of December 31, 2019, the note receivable was \$573. On February 13, 2020, eSite paid off their loan, including interest. On September 24, 2020, the Company's shares of eSite were repurchased by eSite for \$750, recognized in other income, net in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. The Company no longer has any investment in or influence over the business.

## Note 8: Income Taxes

The table below sets forth the Company's income tax provision (benefit).

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
<b>Current</b>		
Federal	\$ (2,281)	\$ —
State	620	894
Total current	(1,661)	894
<b>Deferred</b>		
Federal	(287)	3,029
State	119	(124)
Total deferred	(168)	2,905
<b>Valuation Allowance</b>	142	617
<b>Income Tax Provision (Benefit)</b>	<b>\$ (1,687)</b>	<b>\$ 4,416</b>

The table below reconciles the income tax provision (benefit) computed by applying the applicable United States federal income tax rate to the income tax provision computed at the effective income tax rate.

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
Computed expected income tax provision (benefit)	\$ (1,794)	\$ 2,879
State income tax (net of federal benefit)	560	583
Valuation allowance	142	617
Non deductible expenses	85	392
Uncertain tax position reserve	65	(15)
Carryback receivable	(911)	—
Deferred adjustment	147	(19)
Other	19	(21)
<b>Income tax provision (benefit)</b>	<b>\$ (1,687)</b>	<b>\$ 4,416</b>
<b>Effective income tax rate</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>32.2%</b>

A tax benefit of \$(1,687) was recorded in 2020. The benefit was primarily due to the recognition of the 2018 net operating loss carryback permitted by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act"), partially offset by the effect of the Texas margin tax.

A tax provision of \$4,416 was recorded in 2019. The provision was primarily due to annual income before income taxes, primarily a result of income generated from the sale of the Company's former headquarters (see [Note 14 – Disposal of Assets](#)), the Texas margin tax and an increase in the valuation allowance due to a change in judgement as to the realization of the Company's deferred tax assets.

The Company made income tax payments, net (refunds), of \$(1,675) and \$901 in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

In response to COVID-19, the CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provides numerous tax provisions and other stimulus measures, including temporary changes regarding the prior and future utilization of net operating losses, temporary changes to the prior and future limitations on interest deductions, temporary suspension of certain payment requirements for the employer portion of Social Security taxes, technical corrections from prior tax legislation for tax depreciation of certain qualified improvement property, and the creation of certain refundable employee retention credits. The Company has benefited from the temporary five year net operating loss carryback provision and the technical correction for qualified leasehold improvements, which changes 39-year property to 15-year property, eligible for 100 percent tax bonus depreciation. Applying the technical correction to 2018 has resulted in reporting additional tax depreciation of \$1,017 and increased the 2018 net operating loss to approximately \$6,829. The loss was carried back against 2014 taxes paid at the federal statutory rate of 35 percent that was previously in effect, resulting in a cash refund of \$2,425, including interest, received on October 2, 2020. The Company also applied the technical correction for qualified leasehold improvements to the 2019 and 2020 tax year, the results of which were reflected in the deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2020.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (the “Act”), which includes The COVID-related Tax Relief Act of 2020 and the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, was passed and signed into law the last week of 2020. Among others, the provisions in the Act included items such as guidance on expenses associated with forgiven Paycheck Protection Program loans, business meals deductions, individual tax rebates and unemployment benefits. The Company did not avail itself of any of the items contained in the new Act.

The table below sets forth the significant components of the Company’s deferred tax assets and liabilities.

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Gross Deferred Tax Assets:</b>		
Defined benefit plans	\$ 3,889	\$ 4,838
Investments	60	142
Tax depreciation less than book depreciation	434	1,378
Expenses deductible for tax purposes in a year different from the year accrued	831	838
Lease liability	5,081	5,187
Deferred compensation and benefits	68	—
Book amortization in excess of tax amortization	1,032	1,037
State taxes	76	146
Net operating loss carryforward	5,842	3,662
Other	462	644
Total deferred tax assets	17,775	17,872
Valuation allowance	(12,953)	(12,783)
Total deferred tax assets, net of valuation allowance	4,822	5,089
<b>Gross Deferred Tax Liabilities:</b>		
Deferred compensation and benefits	—	(54)
Right-of-use asset	(4,285)	(4,488)
Other	(461)	(497)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(4,746)	(5,039)
<b>Net Deferred Tax Assets</b>	<b>\$ 76</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

The presentation of net deferred tax assets and liabilities for each jurisdiction are presented as noncurrent within the Company’s Consolidated Balance Sheets. Deferred income tax balances reflect the effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities and their tax bases and are stated at enacted tax rates expected to be in effect when the taxes are actually paid or recovered. The Company recognizes a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets when it is more-likely-than-not that these assets will not be realized. In making this determination, all positive and negative evidence is considered, including future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences, tax planning strategies, future taxable income and taxable income in prior carryback years. In 2020, the valuation allowance increased \$170, of which \$28 is deferred tax assets related to amounts recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss that are fully reserved by a valuation allowance. At December 31, 2020, the Company had a federal net operating loss carryforward of \$27,764, of which \$17,528 expires in 2037 and \$10,236 does not have an expiration. The annual utilization of the portion of the federal net operating loss, which does not have an expiration, is limited to 80 percent of taxable income in tax years beginning after January 1, 2021. The Company has a state net operating loss of \$380, which will begin to expire in 2039. In 2019, as a result of goodwill being fully impaired, the resulting adjustment to the deferred tax asset of \$318 was fully offset by an adjustment to the valuation allowance, recorded as a charge to the income tax provision.

Uncertain tax positions are evaluated and a liability is recognized for the tax benefit associated with uncertain positions only if it is more-likely-than-not that the positions will not be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities, based on the technical merits of the positions. The Company assesses its filing positions in all significant jurisdictions where it is required to file income tax returns for all open tax years. The Company’s federal income tax return for December 31, 2014 and for tax years subsequent to December 31, 2016 remain subject to examination, and income tax returns in major state income tax jurisdictions where the Company operated remain subject to examination. The statute of limitations associated with the December 31, 2014 federal return was extended in 2020 due to the net operating loss carryback pursuant to the CARES Act. The Company has recorded a reserve for the tax benefit related to uncertain tax positions existing as of December 31, 2020, included in other liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The table below sets forth a reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefit.

	2020	2019
Balance at January 1	\$ 2,577	\$ 2,592
Increase related to prior year tax positions	65	—
Decrease related to statute of limitations expiring	(1)	(15)
Balance at December 31	<u>\$ 2,641</u>	<u>\$ 2,577</u>

The Company recorded interest expense of \$179 and \$253 for 2020 and 2019, respectively, and penalty expense of \$15 for 2020, included in other income, net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Accrued interest and penalty at December 31, 2020 and 2019 was \$477 and \$282, respectively, included in other liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company expects it is reasonably possible to recognize a tax benefit of approximately \$2,575 within the next 12 months from the release of a federal uncertain tax reserve due to the statute lapsing in October 2021.

#### Note 9: Pension and Other Retirement Plans

**Defined Benefit Plans.** The Company sponsors the A. H. Belo Pension Plans (the “Pension Plans”), which provide benefits to approximately 1,400 current and former employees of the Company. A. H. Belo Pension Plan I provides benefits to certain current and former employees primarily employed with *The Dallas Morning News* or the A. H. Belo corporate offices. A. H. Belo Pension Plan II provides benefits to certain former employees of The Providence Journal Company. This obligation was retained by the Company upon the sale of the newspaper operations of *The Providence Journal*. No additional benefits are accruing under the A. H. Belo Pension Plans, as future benefits were frozen.

The Company is the sole sponsor of the Pension Plans and is required to meet certain pension funding requirements as established under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”). Instability in global and domestic capital markets may result in low returns on the assets contributed to the Pension Plans. Additionally, low yields on corporate bonds may decrease the discount rate, resulting in a higher funding obligation. Although legislation was enacted into law in 2012, which provided limited funding relief, market conditions could materially increase the funding requirements associated with the Pension Plans, with an adverse effect on the Company’s liquidity and financial condition. The Company was not required to make contributions to the A. H. Belo Pension Plans in 2020 and 2019 under ERISA. The Company will continue to evaluate the feasibility of de-risking strategies based on the economic benefits to the Company.

Actuarial gains (losses) of \$(1,008) and \$5,282 were recorded to other comprehensive income (loss) in 2020 and 2019, respectively, related to the Pension Plans; see [Note 10 - Shareholders' Equity](#) for information on amounts recorded to accumulated other comprehensive loss.

The table below sets forth summarized financial information about the A. H. Belo Pension Plans.

	2020	2019
<b>Change in Projected Benefit Obligation</b>		
Projected benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 219,444	\$ 203,424
Interest cost	6,236	7,896
Actuarial loss	20,261	20,202
Benefit payments	(12,301)	(12,078)
Projected benefit obligation at end of year	<u>233,640</u>	<u>219,444</u>
<b>Change in Plan Assets</b>		
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	196,405	171,535
Return on plan assets	31,016	36,948
Benefit payments	(12,301)	(12,078)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	<u>215,120</u>	<u>196,405</u>
<b>Funded Status</b>	<u>\$ (18,520)</u>	<u>\$ (23,039)</u>
<b>Amounts Recorded on the Balance Sheet</b>		
Noncurrent liability - accrued benefit cost	<u>\$ 18,520</u>	<u>\$ 23,039</u>
<b>Accumulated Benefit Obligation</b>	<u>\$ 233,640</u>	<u>\$ 219,444</u>

*Net Periodic Pension Benefit*

The projected benefit obligations of the A. H. Belo Pension Plans are estimated using the FTSE Pension Discount Curve, which is based upon a portfolio of high-quality corporate debt securities with maturities that correlate to the expected timing of estimated benefit payments to the Pension Plans' participants. Future estimated benefit payments are discounted to their present value at the appropriate yield curve spot rate to determine the projected benefit obligation outstanding at each year end. The single equivalent discount rate as of December 31, 2020, was 2.1 percent and 2.9 percent for December 31, 2019. The significant losses related to changes in the projected benefit obligation for 2020 and 2019 were primarily due to the movement in the discount rate.

Interest expense included in net periodic pension benefit is based on the FTSE Pension Discount Curve established at the beginning of the fiscal year. The discount rate for fiscal year 2020 and 2019 interest cost was 2.9 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively.

The Company assumed a 6.5 percent long-term return on the Pension Plans' assets in 2020 and 2019. This return is based upon historical returns of similar investment pools having asset allocations consistent with the expected allocations of the A. H. Belo Pension Plans. Investment strategies for the Pension Plans' assets are based upon factors such as the effective duration of the actuarial liabilities and market risks.

The Company's estimates of net periodic pension expense or benefit are based on the expected return on plan assets, interest on the projected benefit obligations and the amortization of actuarial gains and losses that are deferred in accumulated other comprehensive loss. Participation in and accrual of new benefits to participants has been frozen since 2007 and, accordingly, on-going service costs are not a component of net periodic pension expense (benefit).

The table below sets forth components of net periodic pension benefit, which are included in other income, net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

	<i>Years Ended December 31,</i>	
	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
Interest cost	\$ 6,236	\$ 7,896
Expected return on plans' assets	(11,762)	(11,464)
Amortization of actuarial loss	880	278
Net periodic pension benefit	<u>\$ (4,646)</u>	<u>\$ (3,290)</u>

*Plan Assets*

The Company is responsible for directing the investment strategies of the A. H. Belo Pension Plans' assets. The investment strategies focus on asset class diversification, liquidity to meet benefit payments and an appropriate balance of long-term investment return and risks. The long-term targeted allocation of the Pension Plans' assets invested in equity securities and fixed income securities is approximately 45.0 percent and 55.0 percent, respectively. These targets are determined based on the effective duration of the actuarial liabilities, the expected long-term rate of return on assets, and expected market risks. Investment risk is continuously monitored and Pension Plans' assets are rebalanced to target allocations to meet the Company's strategy and the Pension Plans' liquidity needs. At December 31, 2020, the Pension Plans' investments in equity securities and fixed income securities accounted for 43.9 percent and 56.1 percent of the total noncash holdings, respectively.

The table below sets forth the A. H. Belo Pension Plans' assets at fair value as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, with inputs used to develop fair value measurements.

Description	Fair Value Measurements Using							
	Total		Quoted Price in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level I)		Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level II)		Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level III)	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
<b>Cash and Money Market Funds</b>	\$ 1,690	\$ 1,743	\$ 1,690	\$ 1,743	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Equity Funds</b>								
U.S. equity securities	60,744	54,258	—	—	60,744	54,258	—	—
International equity securities	32,888	29,519	—	—	32,888	29,519	—	—
<b>Fixed Income Funds</b>								
Domestic corporate and government debt securities	53,323	60,743	—	—	53,323	60,743	—	—
Domestic corporate debt securities	65,271	46,115	—	—	65,271	46,115	—	—
International corporate and government debt securities	1,204	4,027	—	—	1,204	4,027	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 215,120</b>	<b>\$ 196,405</b>	<b>\$ 1,690</b>	<b>\$ 1,743</b>	<b>\$ 213,430</b>	<b>\$ 194,662</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>

Inputs and valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of Pension Plans' assets vary according to the type of asset being valued. Cash and money market funds are designated as Level I. Remaining investments are in commingled funds and fair values are determined by the fund manager primarily based upon closing market quotes of the assets. Equity securities held through units in these funds are monitored as to issuer and industry. As of December 31, 2020, there were no significant concentrations of equity or debt securities in any single issuer or industry.

### Other

The table below sets forth the Company's expected future benefit payments as of December 31, 2020.

Payment year	Expected Benefit Payments
2021	\$ 13,562
2022	13,644
2023	13,489
2024	13,456
2025	13,390
2026 - 2030	64,253

The Company currently does not expect to make contributions to the A. H. Belo Pension Plans in 2021 and no contributions are required to these plans in 2021 under ERISA.

**Other defined benefit plans.** A. H. Belo also sponsors other post-employment benefit (the "OPEB") plans, which provide health and life insurance benefits for certain retired employees. These plans were frozen subsequent to the separation from the Company's former parent company; therefore, no future benefits accrue and on-going service costs are not a component of net periodic benefit cost. The Company recorded a liability of \$1,372 and \$1,347 related to the OPEB plans as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. A net periodic benefit cost of \$19 and \$9 in 2020 and 2019, respectively, was recorded to other income, net. The net periodic benefit cost primarily represents amortization of actuarial gains (losses) and prior service costs, offset by interest expense associated with the actuarial liability. Actuarial losses of \$(42) and \$(182) were recorded to other comprehensive income (loss) in 2020 and 2019, respectively; see [Note 10 - Shareholders' Equity](#).

**Defined Contribution Plans.** The A. H. Belo Savings Plan (the "Savings Plan"), a defined contribution 401(k) plan, covers substantially all employees of A. H. Belo. Participants may elect to contribute a portion of their pretax compensation as provided by the Savings Plan and the Internal Revenue Code. Employees can contribute up to 100 percent of their annual eligible compensation less required withholdings and deductions up to statutory limits. The Company provides an ongoing dollar-for-dollar match of eligible

employee contributions, up to 1.5 percent of the employees' compensation. The Company recorded expense of \$741 and \$702 in 2020 and 2019 respectively, for matching contributions to the Savings Plan.

#### Note 10: Shareholders' Equity

**Dividends.** Quarterly dividends returned \$5,139 and \$6,876 to shareholders in 2020 and 2019, respectively. On December 3, 2020, the Company's board of directors declared a \$0.04 per share dividend to shareholders of record as of the close of business on February 12, 2021, paid on March 5, 2021.

**Treasury Stock.** In 2019, the Company repurchased shares of its common stock pursuant to a publicly announced share repurchase program authorized by the Company's board of directors. The agreement to repurchase the Company's stock expired in the fourth quarter of 2019 and was not renewed. During the fourth quarter of 2019, the Company purchased 33,032 shares of its Series A common stock through open market transactions for \$123. In 2019, the Company purchased 216,490 shares of its Series A common stock through open market transactions for \$842.

**Outstanding Shares.** The Company had Series A and Series B common stock outstanding of 18,941,340 and 2,469,083, respectively, net of treasury shares at December 31, 2020. At December 31, 2019, the Company had Series A and Series B common stock outstanding of 18,941,115 and 2,469,308, respectively, net of treasury shares.

**Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss.** Accumulated other comprehensive loss consists of actuarial gains and losses attributable to the A. H. Belo Pension Plans, gains and losses resulting from Pension Plans' amendments and other actuarial experience attributable to OPEB plans. The Company records amortization of the components of accumulated other comprehensive loss in other income, net in its Consolidated Statements of Operations. Gains and losses are amortized over the weighted average remaining life expectancy of the OPEB plans and Pension Plans' participants.

The table below sets forth the changes in accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax, as presented in the Company's consolidated financial statements.

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2020			2019		
	Total	Defined benefit pension plans	Other post-employment benefit plans	Total	Defined benefit pension plans	Other post-employment benefit plans
Balance, beginning of period	\$ (32,294)	\$ (32,443)	\$ 149	\$ (37,641)	\$ (38,003)	\$ 362
Amortization	876	880	(4)	247	278	(31)
Actuarial gains (losses)	(1,050)	(1,008)	(42)	5,100	5,282	(182)
Balance, end of period	\$ (32,468)	\$ (32,571)	\$ 103	\$ (32,294)	\$ (32,443)	\$ 149

#### Note 11: Earnings Per Share

The table below sets forth the net income (loss) available to common shareholders and weighted average shares used for calculating basic and diluted earnings per share ("EPS"). The Company's Series A and Series B common stock equally share in the distributed and undistributed earnings.

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2020	2019
<b>Earnings (Numerator)</b>		
Net income (loss) available to common shareholders	\$ (6,872)	\$ 9,292
<b>Shares (Denominator)</b>		
Weighted average common shares outstanding (basic and diluted)	21,410,423	21,546,257
<b>Income (Loss) Per Share</b>		
Basic and diluted	\$ (0.32)	\$ 0.43

There were no options or RSUs outstanding as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, that would result in dilution of shares or the calculation of EPS under the two-class method as prescribed under ASC 260 – *Earnings Per Share*.



**Note 12: Commitments and Contingencies**

As of December 31, 2020, the Company had contractual obligations, in aggregate, of \$16,436 for the next five years and \$19,691 thereafter, for operating leases, primarily for office space and other distribution centers, some of which include escalating lease payments. See [Note 5 – Leases](#) for future lease payments by year. In addition, the Company had expected purchase obligations of \$117 related to capital expenditures.

In December 2017, AHC Dallas Properties, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, assumed a 12-year lease agreement for office space that serves as the headquarters of the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. In connection with the sale of Denton Publishing Company, owner of the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, to Denton Media Company, Inc., the Company entered into a sublease with Denton Publishing Company for a term ending on July 30, 2023.

In December 2016, the Dallas Morning News, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, entered into a 16-year lease agreement for office space for the Company's new corporate headquarters. The Company recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis. Per the amended lease agreement, rent payments began in November 2018.

Total lease expense for property and equipment was \$4,854 and \$4,975 in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

The Company funds the A. H. Belo Pension Plans to meet or exceed statutory requirements. The Company currently does not expect to make contributions to the A. H. Belo Pension Plans in 2021 and no contributions are required to these plans in 2021 under the applicable tax and labor laws governing pension plan funding; see [Note 9 - Pension and Other Retirement Plans](#).

From time to time, the Company is involved in a variety of claims, lawsuits and other disputes arising in the ordinary course of business. Management routinely assesses the likelihood of adverse judgments or outcomes in these matters, as well as the ranges of probable losses to the extent losses are reasonably estimable. Accruals for contingencies are recorded when, in the judgment of management, adverse judgments or outcomes are probable and the financial impact, should an adverse outcome occur, is reasonably estimable. The determination of likely outcomes of litigation matters relates to factors that include, but are not limited to, past experience and other evidence, interpretation of relevant laws or regulations and the specifics and status of each matter. Predicting the outcome of claims and litigation and estimating related costs and financial exposure involves substantial uncertainties that could cause actual results to vary materially from estimates and accruals. In the opinion of management, liabilities, if any, arising from other currently existing claims against the Company would not have a material adverse effect on A. H. Belo's results of operations, liquidity or financial condition.

**Note 13: Supplemental Cash Flow Data**

The table below sets forth supplemental disclosures related to the Company's Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

	<u>Years Ended December 31,</u>	
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Income tax paid, net (refund)	\$ (1,675)	\$ 901
Noncash investing and financing activities:		
Investments in property, plant and equipment payable	\$ 117	\$ 237
Dividends payable	856	1,713
Notes receivable for asset sales	375	22,400

**Note 14: Disposal of Assets**

In the third quarter of 2019, the Company recorded a loss of \$1,362 on the disposal of newspaper production assets and publishing software that was replaced by a new digital content platform. The loss is included in the (gain) loss on sale/disposal of assets, net in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. The newspaper production assets were disposed as a result of the Company's strategic decision, in the first quarter of 2019, to eliminate its brokered printing business and reduce the number of local and national commercial print customers it serves from more than 30 to 5.

In May 2019, the Company finalized a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Charter DMN Holdings, LP (the "Purchaser") for the sale of the real estate assets in downtown Dallas, Texas, previously used as the Company's headquarters for a sale price of \$28,000. The sale price consisted of \$4,597 cash received, after selling costs of approximately \$1,000, and a two year seller-financed promissory note (the "Promissory Note") of \$22,400, included in current notes receivable as of December 31, 2020. The sale provided the Company an additional \$1,000 contingency payment if certain conditions were met. The contingency expired as of June 30, 2020, with no payment made by the Purchaser related to the contingency. In 2019, the Company recorded a pretax gain of \$25,908, included in (gain) loss on sale/disposal of assets, net in the Consolidated Statement of Operations. Due to the offset by existing net operating loss carryforwards, the Company did not record any current tax expense related to the sale transaction.

The Promissory Note is secured by a first lien deed of trust covering the property and bears interest payable in quarterly installments that began on July 1, 2019, continuing through its maturity on June 30, 2021, and includes a pre-payment feature. Interest will be accrued at 3.5 percent during the first year and at 4.5 percent during the second year. In 2020 and 2019, the Company received \$897 and \$395, respectively, of interest income included in other income, net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

As a direct result of COVID-19 uncertainties, on April 3, 2020, the Company and the Purchaser entered into an amendment to the Promissory Note deferring the Purchaser's interest payment of \$195 that was due April 1, 2020, and adding it to a second promissory note (the "Second Promissory Note"). In addition, the Second Promissory Note includes a 2019 real property tax reconciliation payment due from the Purchaser under the Purchase and Sale Agreement in the amount of \$180. The Second Promissory Note, in the principal amount of \$375, included in current notes receivable in the Consolidated Balance Sheet, is secured by a second lien deed of trust covering the property and due June 30, 2021. The Company evaluated the collectability of the notes as a result of the purchaser's request to defer the first quarter 2020 interest payment and the continuation of the pandemic. Management believes as of December 31, 2020, the promissory notes are recoverable since the purchaser is in compliance with the terms, is publicly indicating its intent to develop the property, and management believes that the value of the collateral has not materially changed from the sale date. In addition, on January 4, 2021, the Purchaser paid the fourth quarter 2020 interest payment of \$253.

The timing in general of commercial development may have been impacted by the pandemic, and thus capital constraints in commercial real estate markets may exist. Management continues to closely monitor the collectability of the notes and the value of the underlying collateral. Continued economic and other effects of the pandemic could impact the timing of payment or realization of the notes.

#### **Note 15: Subsequent Events**

The Company evaluates subsequent events at the date of the consolidated balance sheet as well as conditions that arise after the balance sheet date but before the consolidated financial statements are issued. To the extent any events and conditions exist, disclosures are made regarding the nature of events and the estimated financial effects for those events and conditions.

On March 4, 2021, the Company's board of directors declared a \$0.04 per share dividend to shareholders of record as of the close of business on May 14, 2021, which is payable on June 4, 2021.

**LIST OF SUBSIDIARIES OF A. H. BELO CORPORATION**  
**(As of December 31, 2020)**

<b>Subsidiary</b>	<b>State or Jurisdiction of Incorporation</b>
A. H. Belo Management Services, Inc.	Delaware
Belo Lead Management LLC*	Delaware
NewsRight, LLC*	Delaware
True North Real Estate LLC	Delaware
AHC California Dispositions, Inc.	Delaware
AHC California Properties, LLC	Delaware
AHC Dallas Properties, LLC	Delaware
B+C, Inc. (The)	Delaware
Distribion, Inc.	Delaware
CDFX, LLC	Delaware
Vertical Nerve, Inc.	Delaware
Belo Enterprises, Inc.	Delaware
Belo Interactive, Inc.	Delaware
Belo Investments II, Inc.	Delaware
Belo Company (The)	Delaware
Cubic Creative, Inc.	Texas
Dallas Morning News, Inc. (The)	Delaware
Al Dia, Inc.	Delaware
DFW Printing Company, Inc.	Delaware
DMI Acquisition Sub, Inc.	Delaware
Fountain Street Corporation	Rhode Island
Providence Journal Company (The)	Delaware

\*Non-wholly owned

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**CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

We have issued our report dated March 10, 2021, with respect to the consolidated financial statements included in the Annual Report of A. H. Belo Corporation on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2020. We consent to the incorporation by reference of said report in the Registration Statements of A. H. Belo Corporation on Forms S-8 (File No. 333-148811, File No. 333-180482, and File No. 333-218601).

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Dallas, Texas  
March 10, 2021

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## SECTION 302 CERTIFICATION

I, Robert W. Decherd, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of A. H. Belo Corporation, certify that:

1. I have reviewed the Annual Report on Form 10-K of A. H. Belo Corporation;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By: /s/ Robert W. Decherd  
Robert W. Decherd  
Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 10, 2021

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## SECTION 302 CERTIFICATION

I, Katy Murray, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of A. H. Belo Corporation, certify that:

1. I have reviewed the Annual Report on Form 10-K of A. H. Belo Corporation;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By: /s/ Katy Murray  
Katy Murray  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 10, 2021

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**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of A. H. Belo Corporation (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2020, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), the undersigned, Robert W. Decherd, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, and Katy Murray, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer of the Company, each hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

By: /s/ Robert W. Decherd

Robert W. Decherd

Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 10, 2021

By: /s/ Katy Murray

Katy Murray

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date: March 10, 2021

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