### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### FORM 8-K

### **CURRENT REPORT**

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

Date of Report (date of earliest event reported): June 21, 2012

# GANNETT CO., INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization of Registrant) 1-6961 (Commission File Number) 16-0442930 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, Virginia (Address of principal executive offices) 22107-0910 (Zip Code)

(703) 854-6000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

□ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Dere-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Dere-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

## Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On June 21, 2012, Gannett Co., Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that Victoria D. Harker had been appointed its chief financial officer, effective July 23, 2012.

Ms. Harker joins Gannett from AES Corp., a global power company, where she was chief financial officer from 2006 and president of Global Business Services from 2011 until leaving those roles in May 2012.

In connection with Ms. Harker's appointment, the Executive Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors approved a base salary of \$625,000. Ms. Harker will receive grants of performance shares and restricted stock units with an aggregate grant date value of \$1.1 million under the terms of the Company's 2001 Omnibus Incentive Compensation Plan (amended and restated as of May 4, 2010), subject to the Company's standard vesting schedule, except that these stock grants would immediately vest in full if the Company were to terminate Ms. Harker's employment without good cause, as defined below. As a member of the Gannett Leadership Team, Ms. Harker will be eligible to receive other benefits customarily provided to GLT members, and will be a participant in the Company's Transitional Compensation Plan (amended as of May 4, 2010). Ms. Harker also will be eligible to participate in the Company's Key Executive Life Insurance Program under which, subject to completion of underwriting by the insurance carrier, the annual life insurance premium payable by Gannett on her behalf is expected to be approximately \$45,000 and her right to receive future annual premium payments will vest if her employment terminates after attaining both five years of service at Gannett and age 55.

In addition, the Company and Ms. Harker entered into a Termination Benefits Agreement ("Termination Agreement") attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference. Under the Termination Agreement, the Company may terminate Ms. Harker's employment for good cause. "Good cause" means (1) embezzlement, fraud, misappropriation of funds, breach of fiduciary duty or other act of material dishonesty committed by Ms. Harker or at her direction; (2) neglect or refusal by Ms. Harker to perform the duties of her position which she does not remedy within 30 days' notice; (3) violation of Gannett's employment policies by Ms. Harker; (4) conviction of, or guilty or nolo contendere plea by Ms. Harker to a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude; or (5) material breach by Ms. Harker of the Termination Agreement which she does not remedy within 30 days' notice. In the event of termination of employment by the Company for good cause, Ms. Harker would not receive any post-termination payments or benefits under the Termination Agreement.

Ms. Harker may terminate her employment for good reason. "Good reason" means (1) Ms. Harker is not elected or retained in her current position (or such other senior executive position in which she may agree to serve); (2) the Company acts to materially reduce Ms. Harker's duties and responsibilities, and this situation is not remedied by the Company within 30 days' notice; or (3) the Company materially breaches the Termination Agreement, which breach is not cured by the Company within 30 days' notice. In the event of termination of employment by Ms. Harker for good reason or by the Company without good cause, and subject to delivery by

Ms. Harker to the Company of a customary release of claims, the Company would make a cash lump sum severance payment to Ms. Harker equal to the sum of (i) her annual base salary in effect on the termination date and (ii) her most recent annual bonus. If Ms. Harker is entitled to receive a change in control payment under the Transitional Compensation Plan or change in control plan then in effect, the amount determined under the prior sentence shall be offset by the amount paid to Ms. Harker under such other plan.

Ms. Harker is 47 years of age.

A press release announcing Ms. Harker's appointment is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2 and incorporated herein by reference.

### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) See Index to Exhibits attached hereto.

SIGNATURE

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

Date: June 22, 2012

Gannett Co., Inc.

By: <u>/s/ Todd A.</u> Mayman

Todd A. Mayman Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

### INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Description	

- 99.1 Termination Benefits Agreement dated as of July 23, 2012
- 99.2 Press release dated June 21, 2012

### GANNETT | NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 21, 2012

### Victoria Harker named Gannett's Chief Financial Officer

McLEAN, VA – Victoria Harker has been named chief financial officer of Gannett Co., Inc. (NYSE: GCI), Gracia C. Martore, Gannett president and chief executive officer, announced today. Harker succeeds Paul Saleh, who left the company in May. Harker will join Gannett on July 23.

"I am delighted to welcome someone with Victoria's broad-ranging experience in senior financial and operational roles to our leadership team as we strategically reshape the company for the digital age. Her proven track record of success as a chief financial officer and demonstrated ability to create shareholder value will be true assets to Gannett as we drive toward our long-term growth objectives," said Martore.

"This is a terrific time to be joining Gannett as it moves rapidly to execute its blueprint for growth," said Harker. "I look forward to being a part of this leading media company, which has a tremendous history, record of success and exciting plans for the future."

Harker joins Gannett from AES Corp., a global power company, where she was chief financial officer and president of Global Business Services. Prior to AES, Harker was acting CFO and treasurer at MCI. She serves on the boards of directors of Xylem and Darden Restaurants. Harker received her B.A. from the University of Virginia and holds a Masters in Business Administration degree from American University. Harker lives in McLean, VA, with her husband and three sons.

### About Gannett

Gannett Co., Inc. (NYSE: GCI) is an international media and marketing solutions company that informs and engages more than 100 million people every month through its powerful network of broadcast, digital, mobile and publishing properties. Our portfolio of trusted brands offers marketers unmatched local-to-national reach and customizable, innovative marketing solutions across any platform. Gannett is committed to connecting people – and the companies who want to reach them – with their interests and communities. For more information, visit <u>www.gannett.com</u>.

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For media inquiries, contact: Jeremy Gaines Vice President, Corporate Communications 703-854-6049 jmgaines@gannett.com For investor inquiries, contact: Jeffrey Heinz Director, Investor Relations 703-854-6917 <u>jheinz@gannett.com</u>

### TERMINATION BENEFITS AGREEMENT

This Termination Benefits Agreement ("Agreement") is made as of July 23, 2012 between Gannett Co., Inc., a Delaware corporation ("Gannett"), and Victoria D. Harker ("Executive").

Gannett desires to appoint Executive as its Chief Financial Officer and, to secure her acceptance of this position, desires to memorialize the compensation and benefits she would receive in the event her employment terminates under certain circumstances.

Gannett and Executive hereby agree as follows:

1. <u>Termination of Employment by Executive</u>. Executive shall have the right to terminate her employment with Gannett for "good reason" upon 30 days' written notice to Gannett given within 90 days following the occurrence of any of the following events, each of which shall constitute a "good reason" for such termination:

(a) Executive is not elected or retained as Chief Financial Officer (or a substantially similar title or such other senior executive position as Executive may agree to serve in);

(b) Gannett acts to materially reduce Executive's duties and responsibilities and Gannett does not remedy such situation within 30 days after receipt of written notice from Executive; or

(c) Gannett materially breaches this Agreement and Gannett does not remedy such breach within 30 days after receipt of written notice from Executive.

2. <u>Termination of Employment by Gannett</u>. Gannett shall have the right to terminate Executive's employment for "good cause" upon written notice to Executive following the occurrence of any of the following events, each of which shall constitute a "good cause" for such termination:

(a) embezzlement, fraud, misappropriation of funds, breach of fiduciary duty or other act of material dishonesty committed by Executive or at Executive's direction;

(b) neglect or refusal by Executive to perform the duties of her position which she does not remedy within 30 days after receipt of written notice from Gannett;

(c) violation of Gannett's employment policies by Executive;

(d) conviction of, or guilty or nolo contendere plea by the Executive to a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude; or

(e) material breach by Executive of this Agreement which she does not remedy within 30 days after receipt of written notice from Gannett.

Gannett may also terminate Executive's employment for convenience (i.e., for any reason other than good cause), subject to the applicable provisions of this Agreement that are intended to survive termination of employment.

3. <u>Consequence of Termination of Employment</u>. If Executive terminates her employment with Gannett for any reason other than good reason or Gannett terminates her employment for good cause, Executive shall have no further rights and Gannett shall have no further obligations under this Agreement. If Executive terminates her employment for good reason or Gannett terminates Executive's employment for convenience, then conditioned upon and subject to Executive executing a valid release agreement in such form as Gannett may reasonably require with respect to claims which Executive or her estate or beneficiaries may have arising out of Executive's employment (the "Release"), the following shall apply:

(a) Executive shall be paid in accordance with normal payroll practices all earned but unpaid compensation, accrued vacation and accrued but unreimbursed expenses required to be reimbursed through the date her employment terminates (the "Termination Date"); and

(b) Gannett shall pay to Executive on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the Termination Date, provided that the Release has become effective and non-revocable as of that date, a cash lump sum severance payment equal to the sum of (i) her annual base salary in effect on the Termination Date and (ii) her most recent annual bonus as of the Termination Date.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Section 3(b) above shall not apply if the Release does not become effective and non-revocable within 30 days after Executive's Termination Date, and Executive shall have no rights under such section if the Release does not become effective and non-revocable by the 30th day after Executive's Termination Date. Executive shall not be required to mitigate damages or the amount of any payment provided for under this Agreement by seeking other employment or otherwise, nor will any payments hereunder be subject to offset in respect of any claims which Gannett may have against Executive, nor shall the amount of any payment or benefit provided for in this Section 3 be reduced by any compensation earned as a result of Executive's employment with another employer. If Executive is entitled to receive a change in control payment under any Gannett transitional compensation or change in control plan then in effect, the amount determined under Section 3(b) shall be offset by the amount paid to Executive under such transitional compensation or change in control plan.

4. <u>Legal Expenses and Interest</u>. If, with respect to any alleged failure by Gannett to comply with any of the terms of this Agreement, Executive institutes or responds to legal action to assert or defend the validity of, enforce her rights under, or recover damages for breach of this Agreement and thereafter Gannett is found in a judgment no longer subject to review or appeal to have breached this Agreement in any material respect, then Gannett shall indemnify Executive for her reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in connection with such legal action. Gannett shall pay Executive such indemnified expenses by the end the calendar year in which such judgment is reached or, if later, by the 15th day of the third month after the date on which such judgment is reached.

5. <u>Transferability</u>. The rights, benefits and obligations of Gannett under this Agreement shall be transferable, and all covenants and agreements hereunder shall inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by or against, its successors and assigns. Whenever the term "Gannett" is used in this Agreement, such term shall mean and

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include Gannett Co., Inc. and its successors and assigns. The rights and benefits of Executive under this Agreement shall not be transferable other than rights to property or compensation that may pass on her death to her estate or beneficiaries through her will or the laws of descent and distribution.

6. <u>Severability</u>. If any provision of this Agreement or the application thereof is held invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability thereof shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement which can be given effect without the invalid or unenforceable provision, and to this end the provisions of this Agreement are to be severable.

7. <u>Amendment; Waiver</u>. This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the matters contained herein. No amendment or modification of this Agreement shall be valid unless evidenced by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto. No waiver by either party of any breach by the other party of any provision or conditions of this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of any similar or dissimilar provision or condition at the same or any prior or subsequent time.

8. <u>Tax Withholding</u>. Gannett may withhold from any payments due to Executive hereunder, such amounts as its independent public accountants may determine are required to be withheld under applicable federal, state and local tax laws.

#### 9. Restrictive Covenant.

(a) Executive agrees that (i) during the period of her employment hereunder and (ii) provided that Executive has received the payment under Section 3(b) above, or if Executive is terminated for good cause as defined in Section 2, for a period of one year after she ceases employment, she will not, without the written consent of Gannett, obtain (or, in the case of clause (ii) above, seek) a position with a Competitor (as defined below) in which Executive will use or is likely to use any confidential information or trade secrets of Gannett, or in which Executive has duties for such Competitor within the United States that involve Competitive Services (as defined below) and that are the same or similar to those services actually performed by Executive for Gannett.

(b) Executive understands and agrees that the relationship between Gannett and each of its employees constitutes a valuable asset of Gannett and may not be converted to Executive's own use. Accordingly, Executive hereby agrees that (i) during the period of her employment hereunder and (ii) for a period of one year after she ceases employment, Executive shall not directly or indirectly, on her own behalf or on behalf of another person, solicit or induce any employee to terminate her or her employment relationship with Gannett or any affiliate of Gannett or to enter into employment with another person. The foregoing shall not apply to employees who respond to solicitations of employment directed to the general public or who seek employment at their own initiative.

(c) For the purposes of this Section 9, "Competitive Services" means the provision of goods or services that are competitive with any goods or services offered by Gannett as of the date of this Agreement, including, but not limited to newspapers, non-daily publications, television, radio, cable, digital, Internet, and other news and

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information services, and "Competitor" means any individual or any entity or enterprise engaged, wholly or in part, in Competitive Services. The parties acknowledge that Gannett may from time to time during the term of this Agreement change or increase the line of goods or services it provides, and Executive agrees to amend this Agreement from time to time to include such different or additional goods and services to the definition of "Competitive Services" for purposes of this Section 9.

(d) Executive agrees that due to her position of trust and confidence the restrictions contained in this Section 9 are reasonable, and the benefits conferred on her in this Agreement, including her compensation, are adequate consideration, and since the nature of Gannett's business is national in scope, the geographic restriction herein is reasonable.

(e) Executive agrees that she will not make any statements, oral or written, or cause or allow to be published in her name, or under any other name, any statements, interviews, articles, books, web logs, editorials or commentary (oral or written) that is critical or disparaging of Gannett, or any of its operations, or any officers, employees or directors of Gannett, or of any of its operations.

(f) Executive acknowledges that a breach of this Section 9 will cause irreparable injury and damage, which cannot be reasonably or adequately compensated by money damages. Accordingly, she acknowledges that the remedies of injunction and specific performance shall be available in the event of such a breach, and Gannett shall be entitled to money damages, costs and attorneys' fees, and other legal or equitable remedies, including an injunction pending trial, without the posting of bond or other security. Any period of restriction set forth in this Section 9 shall be extended for a period of time equal to the duration of any breach or violation thereof.

(g) In the event of Executive's breach of this Section 9, in addition to the injunctive relief described above, Gannett's remedy shall include (i) the right to require Executive to account for and pay over to Gannett all compensation, profits, monies, accruals, increments or other benefits derived or received by Executive as the result of any transactions constituting a breach of the restrictive covenants in this Section 9, and (ii) in the case of a breach during the period described in Section 9(a)(ii) or 9(b)(ii) above, the forfeiture and return to Gannett of any payment made under Section 3(b) above.

(h) In the event that any provision of this Section 9 is held to be in any respect an unreasonable restriction, then the court so holding may modify the terms thereof, including the period of time during which it operates or the geographic area to which it applies, or effect any other change to the extent necessary to render this Section 9 enforceable, it being acknowledged by the parties that the representations and covenants set forth herein are of the essence of this Agreement.

10. Confidentiality. Executive agrees to keep confidential the existence of this Agreement and its terms.

11. <u>Section 409A</u>. The parties intend that benefits under this Agreement are to be either exempt from, or comply with, the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, as amended, and the Treasury Department regulations and other authoritative guidance

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issued thereunder, and shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the intent that Executive not be subject to tax under Section 409A of the Code. If any provision of the Agreement would otherwise conflict with or frustrate this intent, that provision will be interpreted and deemed amended so as to avoid the conflict. Any reference in this Agreement to "terminates employment", "employment terminates", or similar phrase shall mean an event that constitutes a "separation from service" within the meaning of Section 409A. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, in the event that Gannett determines that payments or benefits under this Agreement would otherwise be subject to tax under Section 409A of the Code because Executive is a "specified employee" within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code, such payments or benefits shall not commence until the first day of the seventh month after the Termination Date (or, if earlier, the date Executive dies).

12. <u>Recovery of Compensation in Restatement Situations</u>. Gannett will, to the extent permitted or required by governing law or regulations, as may be amended from time to time, or its recoupment or clawback policy, as may be amended from time to time, require reimbursement of any compensation paid to Executive after the date hereof where (a) Gannett is required to prepare an accounting restatement due to material non-compliance with any financial reporting requirements under the securities laws; (b) the compensation payment was predicated upon the achievement of certain financial results, and (c) a lower payment would have been made to Executive based upon the restated financial results. In each such instance, Gannett will seek to recover Executive's relevant compensation paid over a period of no less than three years prior to the restatement, regardless of whether Executive is then employed by Gannett.

13. <u>Governing Law</u>. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware without regard to principles of conflicts of laws.

14. <u>Term</u>. This Agreement shall automatically expire and be of no further force or effect on the third anniversary of the date hereof except as otherwise expressly provided herein and with respect to the enforcement of any rights and obligations that accrued on or before the expiration date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first set forth above.

GANNETT CO., INC.

By: /s/ Gracia C. Martore President and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Victoria D. Harker

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