

BANNER CORP  
Form 8-K  
March 28, 2018  
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): March 28, 2018

Banner Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<u>Washington</u>	<u>000-26584</u>	<u>91-1691604</u>
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

<u>10 S. First Avenue, Walla Walla, Washington</u>	<u>99362</u>
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number (including area code) (509) 527-3636

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)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

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. [ ]

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Item 8.01 Other Events.

On March 28, 2018, Banner Corporation (the "Corporation") announced that the Corporation's Board of Directors has increased its regular quarterly cash dividend by 40% to \$0.35 per share and renewed its authorization to repurchase up to 5% of its common stock, or 1,621,549 shares.

The news release announcing the stock repurchase is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibit is being furnished herewith and this list shall constitute the exhibit index:

99.1 Press Release of Banner Corporation dated March 28, 2018.

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SIGNATURES

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

BANNER CORPORATION

Date: March 28, 2018 By: /s/ Lloyd W. Baker

Lloyd W. Baker  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

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