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BANNER CORP Form 8-K April 04, 2016

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): April 4, 2016

Banner Corporation (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington	0-26584	91-1691604
(State or other jurisdiction	(Commission	(I.R.S. Employer
of incorporation)	File Number)	Identification No.)

10 S. First Avenue, Walla Walla, Washington 99362 (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.

- G Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- G Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- G Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- G Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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Item 8.01. Other Events

On April 4, 2016, Banner Corporation ("Company") announced that the Company's Board of Directors has renewed its authorization to repurchase of up to 5% of its common stock, or 1,711,540 shares.

The news release announcing the stock repurchase plan is attached 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 April 4, 2016.

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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: April 4, 2016 By: /s/ Lloyd W. Baker Lloyd W. Baker

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer