

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
October 22, 2012

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report: October 22, 2012  
(Date of earliest event reported)

Sterling Financial Corporation

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Washington

001-34696

91-1572822

(State or other jurisdiction

(Commission File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer

of incorporation or organization)

Identification Number)

111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201

(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)

(509) 458-3711

(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)

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))

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On October 22, 2012 Sterling Financial Corporation (“Sterling”) and its principal operating subsidiary Sterling Savings Bank (“Sterling Bank”) announced that they had entered into a definitive agreement to acquire American Heritage Holdings (“AHH”), the holding company for Borrego Springs Bank, N.A (the “Transaction”).

Under the terms of the agreement, Sterling will pay \$6.5 million in cash to acquire AHH. The shareholders of AHH have agreed to vote in favor of the Transaction, which is subject to regulatory approval and customary closing conditions and is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2013.

The full text of a press release announcing the execution of the Agreement issued on October 22, 2012 is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K. The information in Exhibit 99.1 shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, and shall not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) The following exhibit is being furnished herewith:

Exhibit No. Exhibit Description

99.1 Sterling Financial Corporation press release.

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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.

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

October 22, 2012 By: /s/ Patrick J. Rusnak  
Date Patrick J. Rusnak  
Chief Financial Officer