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Ameris Bancorp  
Form 8-K  
January 02, 2018

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): December 31, 2017

Ameris Bancorp

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Georgia    001-13901    58-1456434  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) (Commission File Number) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

310 First Street, S.E., Moultrie, Georgia 31768  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (229)  
890-1111

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(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 (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

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.

**Item 1.02 Termination of a Material Definitive Agreement.**

The information provided in Item 5.02 of this Current Report on Form 8-K is incorporated by reference into this Item 1.02.

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

Effective as of December 31, 2017, Andrew B. Cheney retired from his role as Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Executive of Ameris Bancorp (the “Company”) and its wholly owned banking subsidiary, Ameris Bank. Mr. Cheney, who will be taking on a non-employee advisory role with the Company and Ameris Bank, has held a number of senior executive positions with the Company and Ameris Bank since joining the Company in 2009.

The Executive Employment Agreement by and among the Company, Ameris Bank and Mr. Cheney dated as of December 15, 2014 was terminated as of December 31, 2017 as a result of Mr. Cheney’s retirement.

**SIGNATURE**

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

**AMERIS BANCORP**

By: /s/ Dennis J. Zember Jr.  
Dennis J. Zember Jr.  
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Date: January 2, 2018