

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 8-K

December 01, 2006

**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 1, 2006

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

0-20800
(Commission File Number)

91-1572822
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)
(509) 458-3711

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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))
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INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Item 8.01 Other Events.

Sterling Financial Corporation (Sterling) announced that it has completed its acquisition of FirstBank NW Corp., the parent company of FirstBank Northwest, headquartered in Clarkston, Washington. A copy of the press release issued by Sterling on December 1, 2006 announcing the completion of the acquisition is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release dated December 1, 2006.

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S I G N A T U R E

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 thereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL
CORPORATION**
(Registrant)

December 1, 2006
Date

By: /s/ Daniel G. Byrne
Daniel G. Byrne
Executive Vice President, Assistant Secretary and
Principal Financial Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release dated December 1, 2006.

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