

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**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
99.1	Press Release dated December 1, 2006.

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