

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
July 03, 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: June 29, 2012  
(Date of earliest event reported)

Sterling Financial Corporation (Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)		
Washington (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	001-34696 (Commission File Number)	91-1572822 (I.R.S. Employer 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))
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Item 8.01 Other Events.

On June 29, 2012 Sterling Financial Corporation's principal operating subsidiary Sterling Savings Bank ("Sterling Bank") entered into a definitive agreement for the sale of its Montana operations to Eagle Bancorp Montana, Inc. ("Eagle") and its wholly owned subsidiary American Federal Savings Bank.

Under the terms of the agreement, Eagle will pay Sterling Bank a premium of approximately \$7.3 million to acquire approximately \$187 million of deposits and \$44 million of performing loans and certain other assets and liabilities. The Transaction is subject to regulatory approval and customary closing conditions and is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2012.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) The following exhibit is being filed 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)

July 2, 2012 By: /s/ Patrick J. Rusnak  
Date Patrick J. Rusnak  
Chief Financial Officer