

BANNER CORP  
Form 4  
March 31, 2015

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Rust Steven W

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
10 SOUTH 1ST AVENUE  
(Street)

WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
BANNER CORP [BANR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
03/27/2015

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Exc. VP Banner Bank

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount (A) or (D) Price		
Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share	03/27/2015		A		908 <sup>(1)</sup> A <u>11</u> 7,990 <sup>(3)</sup>	D	
Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share	03/27/2015		A		1,363 <sup>(2)</sup> A <u>12</u> 9,353 <sup>(3)</sup>	D	
Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share	03/30/2015		F		133 <sup>(4)</sup> D <u>5</u> \$ 45.22 9,220 <sup>(3)</sup>	D	

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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Rust Steven W 10 SOUTH 1ST AVENUE WALLA WALLA, WA 99362			Exc. VP Banner Bank	

## Signatures

/s/ Steven W. Rust  
03/31/2015

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person                      Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Represents award pursuant to 2014 Omnibus Incentive Plan; shares vest ratably over a three year period beginning on March 27, 2015 and ending on the third anniversary thereof. These shares are subject to forfeiture and to limits on transferability until they vest.
- (2) Represents award pursuant to 2014 Omnibus Incentive Plan and is subject to the achievement of specified corporate and individual performance goals over a performance period that begins on January 1, 2015 and ends on December 31, 2017. The extent to which the award vests, if at all, depends on the extent to which the performance goals are satisfied. These shares are subject to forfeiture and to limits on transferability until they vest.
- (3) Includes direct ownership of 353 shares through Deferred Compensation Plan and 258 shares through 401(k) Plan.

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- (4) Shares relinquished to cover tax obligations on vesting of 324 shares of restricted stock pursuant to 2012 Restricted Stock and Incentive Bonus Plan.
- (5) Market price on March 27, 2015.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.