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NEWS RELEASE

BANNER CORPORATION ANNOUNCES FIRST QUARTER CONFERENCE CALL AND WEBCAST

Walla Walla, WA – April 12, 2005 – Banner Corporation (Nasdaq: BANR), the parent of Banner Bank, today announced that it will report its first quarter results before the market opens on Thursday, April 28, 2005. This will be followed by a conference call at 8:00 a.m. PDT (11:00 a.m. EDT). The call also will be broadcast live via the Internet.

The conference call can be accessed by dialing 303-262-2211. To listen to the call online, go to the company's website at www.bannerbank.com or to www.fulldisclosure.com. Institutional investors may access the call via the subscriber-only site, www.streetevents.com. An archived recording of the call can be accessed by dialing 303-590-3000, access code 11027824#, until Thursday, May 5, 2005 or via the Internet at www.fulldisclosure.com.

Banner Corporation is the parent of Banner Bank, a commercial bank that operates a total of 51 branch offices and twelve loan offices in 23 counties in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Banner serves the Pacific Northwest region with a full range of deposit services and business, commercial real estate, construction, residential, agricultural and consumer loans. Visit Banner Bank on the Web at www.bannerbank.com.

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Note: Transmitted via Business Wire on April 12, 2005 at 9:57 a.m. PDT.