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Corporate Investor Relations
206.388.5785 www.stockvalues.com



CONTACT: D. MICHAEL JONES,
PRESIDENT AND CEO
LLOYD W. BAKER, CFO
(509) 527-3636

NEWS RELEASE

Banner Corporation Announces 1Q08 Conference Call and Webcast

Walla Walla, WA – April 8, 2008 – Banner Corporation (NASDAQ GSM: BANR), the parent company of Banner Bank and Islanders Bank, today announced that it will report earnings for the first quarter of 2008 after the market closes on Wednesday, April 30, 2008. Management will host a conference call on Thursday, May 1 at 8:00 a.m. PDT (11:00 a.m. EDT) to discuss the results. The call will also be broadcast live via the internet.

Investment professionals are invited to dial 303-205-0044 at 8:00 a.m. PDT (11:00 a.m. EDT) to access the call. All current and prospective shareholders are welcome to listen to the live call or replay through a webcast posted on the Banner Bank's website, www.bannerbank.com. An archived recording of the call can be accessed by dialing 303-590-3000, access code 11111719#, until Thursday, May 8, 2008.

About Banner Corporation

Banner Corporation is a \$4.5 billion bank holding company operating two commercial banks 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 on Prime Newswire at 1:00 p.m. PDT on April 8, 2008.