

FIRST BANCTRUST CORP

Form 8-K

April 23, 2008

**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): April 23, 2008 (April 21, 2008)**

**First BancTrust Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<b>Delaware</b> (State or other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	<b>000-32535</b> (Commission File Number)	<b>37-1406661</b> (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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<b>101 South Central Avenue, Paris, IL</b> (Address of Principal Executive Offices)	<b>61944</b> (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(217) 465-6381**

(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))

**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On April 21, 2008, First BancTrust Corporation announced the Board of Directors' preliminary approval of a going private merger transaction and its intent to deregister as a public reporting company with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

A copy of the press release is attached hereto as an exhibit and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit Number

99.1                      Press Release, dated April 21, 2008 issued by First BancTrust Corporation

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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.

**FIRST BANCTRUST CORPORATION**

Dated: April 23, 2008

/s/Terry J. Howard

Terry J. Howard  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit Number

99.1 Press Release, dated April 21, 2008 issued by First BancTrust Corporation

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