

CENTURYTEL INC
 Form 4
 April 18, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
GOFF STACEY W

(Last) (First) (Middle)

100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE

(Street)

MONROE, LA 71203

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
04/17/2006

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)
 Sr. VP, Gen. Counsel

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	04/17/2006		F		750	D	\$ 37.64 <u>(1)</u>
Common Stock					886.07	I	By 401(k) <u>(2)</u>
Common Stock					1,427.07	I	By ESOP <u>(3)</u>
Common Stock					368.64	I	By Stock Bonus Plan <u>(4)</u>

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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. Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.63					02/21/2001 ⁽⁵⁾ 02/21/2010	Common Stock	9,400
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 32.99					02/25/2003 ⁽⁶⁾ 02/25/2012	Common Stock	18,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.95					03/14/2004 03/14/2013	Common Stock	9,666
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.2					08/26/2004 08/26/2013	Common Stock	50,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.34					02/25/2004 ⁽⁷⁾ 02/25/2014	Common Stock	13,499
	\$ 33.4					02/17/2005 02/17/2015		40,500

Employee Stock Option (right to buy)					Common Stock	
Employee Stock Option	\$ 35.41		03/15/2007 ⁽⁸⁾	02/20/2016	Common Stock	40,500
(right to buy)						

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
GOFF STACEY W 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203			Sr. VP, Gen. Counsel	

Signatures

By: Kay Buchart, 04/18/2006
 Attorney-In-Fact

__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) Closing price on vest date.
- (2) As of most recent statement available
- (3) As of most recent statement available.
- (4) As of most recent statement available.
- (5) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/21/2001, one-third are exercisable on 2/21/2002, and one-third are exercisable on 2/21/2003.
- (6) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/25/03, one-third are exercisable 2/25/04, and one-third are exercisable 2/25/05.
- (7) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/25/05, and one-third are exercisable 2/25/06.
- (8) One-third of the options are exercisable 3/15/07, one-third are exercisable 3/15/08, and one-third are exercisable 3/15/09.

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.