

FORM 4

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

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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 or
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * PUCKETT KAREN A (Last) (First) (Middle) 100 CENTURYLINK DRIVE (Street) MONROE, LA 71203 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ____ Director _____ 10% Owner ____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) Ex. VP & COO
3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) 3/8/2010		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) ____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person ____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)		

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Trans. Date	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	3. Trans. 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	3/8/2010		A		55157 (1)	A	\$0	215352.8939	D	
Common Stock								200	I	As Custodian For Child
Common Stock								897.5927	I	By 401(k)
Common Stock								1790.0608	I	By ESOP
Common Stock								18.9996	I	By Stock Bonus Plan

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Trans. Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Trans. 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		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Performance-based Restricted Stock Units	\$0 (2)	3/8/2010		A		27579	(2)	(2)	Common Stock	27579	\$0	27579	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) One-half of grant is time-vested and one-half is performance-based vesting.
- (2) Each unit represents a contingent right to receive a share of CenturyTel, Inc. common stock. Up to one-half of the units vest on March 15, 2012 based upon CenturyTel, Inc.'s total relative shareholder return for 2010 and 2011 and up to one-half vest on March 15, 2013 based upon CenturyTel, Inc.'s total relative shareholder return for 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
PUCKETT KAREN A 100 CENTURYLINK DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203			Ex. VP & COO	

Signatures

Kay C. Buchart, Attorney-In-Fact

3/10/2010

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

* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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