

## **FORM 4**

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

**OMB Number:** 3235-0287  
**Estimated average burden**  
**hours per response:** 0.5

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan for the purchase or sale of equity securities of the issuer that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

<p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*</p> <p><u>Macheck Howard</u></p>	<p>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p><u>CENTRAL GARDEN &amp; PET CO [ CENT ]</u></p>	<p>5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)</p>
<p>(Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p><u>C/O CENTRAL GARDEN &amp; PET COMPANY</u></p> <p><u>1340 TREAT BLVD, SUITE 600</u></p>	<p>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)</p> <p><u>02/11/2026</u></p>	<p>Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)  <u>Chief Accounting Officer</u></p>
<p>(Street)</p> <p><u>WALNUT CREEK</u></p>	<p>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)</p>	<p>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person  <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p>
<p>(City) <u></u> (State) <u>CA</u> (Zip) <u>94597</u></p>		

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

**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 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: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

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### Explanation of Responses:

1. On February 11, 2026, the Issuer granted restricted Class A Common Stock to the Reporting Person which will vest at the rates of 25% on February 11, 2028 and February 11, 2029, and 50% on February 11, 2030.
2. The units represent interests in the CENTA Stock Fund in the Issuer's 401(k) Plan, which consist of shares of CENTA stock and cash.

/s/ Filomena Eickstaedt as  
Attorney-in-Fact for Howard  
Machek

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

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.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.