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CENTEX CORP  
Form SC 13G  
March 13, 2006

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
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SCHEDULE 13G\*  
(Rule 13d-102)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT  
TO RULES 13d-1(b), (c) AND (d) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED  
PURSUANT TO 13d-2(b)

CENTEX CORP.  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock  
(Title of Class of Securities)

152312104

(CUSIP Number)

March 3, 2006  
(Date of event which requires filing of this statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this  
Schedule 13G is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)  
 Rule 13d-1(c)  
 Rule 13d-1(d)

(Page 1 of 10 Pages)

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\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting  
person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of  
securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would  
alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be  
deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act  
of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the  
Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the  
Notes).

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-----  
(1) NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE  
PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Tontine Partners, L.P.

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(2) CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP \*\* (a) [X]  
(b) [ ]

-----

(3) SEC USE ONLY

-----

(4) CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
Delaware

-----

NUMBER OF (5) SOLE VOTING POWER -0-  
SHARES -----

BENEFICIALLY (6) SHARED VOTING POWER 4,156,395  
OWNED BY -----

EACH (7) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER -0-  
REPORTING -----

PERSON WITH (8) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 4,156,395  
-----

(9) AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED  
BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 4,156,395  
-----

(10) CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT  
IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES \*\* [ ]  
-----

(11) PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED  
BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 3.39%  
-----

(12) TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON \*\* PN  
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\*\* SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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(1) NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO.  
OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY) Tontine Management, L.L.C.

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(2) CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP \*\* (a) [X]  
(b) [ ]

-----

(3) SEC USE ONLY

-----

(4) CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
Delaware

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PERSON WITH (8) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 2,281,843

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(9) AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 2,281,843

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(10) CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES \*\* [ ]

---

(11) PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 1.86%

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(12) TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON \*\* IA

\*\* SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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(1) NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY) Jeffrey L. Gendell

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(2) CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP \*\* (a) [X] (b) [ ]

---

(3) SEC USE ONLY

---

(4) CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION United States

---

NUMBER OF (5) SOLE VOTING POWER 378,200 SHARES

---

BENEFICIALLY (6) SHARED VOTING POWER 6,438,238 OWNED BY

---

EACH (7) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 378,200 REPORTING

---

PERSON WITH (8) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 6,438,238

---

(9) AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 6,816,438

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-----  
(10) CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT  
IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES \*\* [ ]  
-----  
(11) PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED  
BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) 5.55%  
-----  
(12) TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON \*\* IN  
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\*\* SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT!

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Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

The name of the issuer is Centex Corp. (the "Company").

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

The Company's principal executive offices are located at 2728 N. Harwood, Dallas, TX 75201.

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

This statement is filed by:

- (i) Tontine Partners, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("TP") with respect to the shares of Common Stock directly owned by it;
- (ii) Tontine Management, L.L.C., a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware ("TM"), with respect to the shares of Common Stock directly owned by TP;
- (iii) Tontine Overseas Associates, L.L.C., a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware ("TOA"), which serves as investment manager to Tontine Overseas Fund, Ltd. ("TOF"), each a company organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands, and certain separately managed accounts, with respect to the shares of Common Stock directly owned by TOF and the separately managed accounts; and
- (iv) Jeffrey L. Gendell ("Mr. Gendell"), with respect to the shares of Common Stock owned directly by TP, TOF and the separately managed accounts.

The foregoing persons are hereinafter sometimes collectively referred to as the "Reporting Persons." Any disclosures herein with respect to persons other than the Reporting Persons are made on information and belief after making inquiry to the appropriate party.

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence:

The address of the business office of each of the Reporting Persons is 55 Railroad Avenue, 3rd Floor, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830.

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

TP is a limited partnership organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Each of TM and TOA is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Mr. Gendell is a United States citizen.

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Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:  
Common Stock, \$0.25 par value (the "Common Stock")

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number: 152312104

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

- (a)  Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act,
- (b)  Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act,
- (c)  Insurance Company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act,
- (d)  Investment Company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940,
- (e)  Investment Adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (E),
- (f)  Employee Benefit Plan or Endowment Fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (F),
- (g)  Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (G),
- (h)  Savings Association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act,
- (i)  Church Plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940,
- (j)  Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (J).

Not applicable.

Item 4. Ownership.

A. Tontine Partners, L.P.

(a) Amount beneficially owned: 4,156,395  
(b) Percent of class: 3.39% The percentages used herein and in the rest of Item 4 are calculated based upon the 122,775,805 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding as of January 25, 2006, as set forth in the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ending on December 31, 2005.

- (c) (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-
- (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 4,156,395
- (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-

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(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition:  
4,156,395

B. Tontine Management, L.L.C.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 4,156,395
- (b) Percent of class: 3.39%
- (c) (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 4,156,395
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition:  
4,156,395

C. Tontine Overseas Associates, L.L.C.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 2,281,843
- (b) Percent of class: 1.86%
- (c) (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: -0-
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 2,281,843
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: -0-
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 2,281,843

D. Jeffrey L. Gendell

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 6,816,438
- (b) Percent of class: 5.55%
- (c) (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: 378,200
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 6,438,238
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 378,200
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 6,438,238

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not applicable.

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Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

TM, the general partner of TP, has the power to direct the affairs of TP, including decisions respecting the disposition of the proceeds from the sale of the shares. Mr. Gendell is the Managing Member of TM and TOA and in that capacity directs their operations. The managed accounts are clients of TOA. Each of the clients of TOA has the power to direct the receipt of dividends from or the proceeds of sale of such shares.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

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Each of the Reporting Persons hereby makes the following certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

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SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of our knowledge and belief, the undersigned certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

DATED: March 13, 2006

/s/ JEFFREY L. GENDELL  
Jeffrey L. Gendell, individually, and as  
managing member of  
Tontine Management, L.L.C.,  
general partner of  
Tontine Partners, L.P., and as  
managing member of  
Tontine Overseas Associates, L.L.C.