

# DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

## ORLANDO HEALTH BUYS TRACT NEAR I-4

*Dinah Voyles Pulver*  
*Southwest Volusia Bureau Chief*  
September 23, 1997; Page 07A

ORANGE CITY -- Orlando Regional Health Systems has bought land near Interstate 4, becoming the third major health care provider to expand from Orlando into Southwest Volusia.

The health care company closed on a purchase of a 7.2-acre tract at Goose Lake on Sept. 12, paying \$2.06 million. The property is on the southwest corner of the I-4/Saxon Boulevard interchange.

The tract was owned by **Maury Carter** and Associates of Orlando and developed by Jeff Douglas of Orlando.

Orlando Regional has eyed Southwest Volusia for years and once had an option on a tract in Orange City. That deal fell through but the company has continued to watch the health care market grow in the Deltona-Orange City area.

Orlando Regional, a private, not-for-profit system, owns six hospitals in Central Florida and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center-Orlando as well as a home health care agency and other health-related services. Its facility closest to Volusia County is South Seminole Hospital in Longwood.

The system is interested in coming to Southwest Volusia essentially for two reasons. Many companies who contract with Orlando Regional for health care for their employees have plan participants who live in the area. Both of the systems' major competitors, Columbia/HCA and Florida Hospital, are here already.

Orlando Regional spokesman Joe Brown said the system's purchase represents an "effort to look at the possibility of properties that may have longer benefits down the road."

No immediate construction is planned for the site, Brown said. Among the facilities that could be developed there eventually are an outpatient center or medical offices, he said. Brown said Orlando Regional judged it was better to buy land now and hold it for future use. Demand for undeveloped property in West Volusia is expected to increase as development continues to creep north along I-4 from Seminole and Orange counties. Several other outparcels are still for sale at Goose Lake. Daryl Carter, spokesman for **Maury Carter** and Associates, said Monday that he expects to close on two other sales by the first quarter of 1998.

