

SATURDAY, July 19, 1997

The Lake Sentinel

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An Edition of The Orlando Sentinel

College lands site for new campus

□ Lake-Sumter Community College will acquire a 127-acre parcel to build a campus with the help of Orlando Healthcare System.

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OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

LEESBURG — Lake-Sumter Community College trustees approved a plan this week to acquire 127 acres for a planned south Lake campus adjacent to the site of a new hospital.

The site, next to what will be the new South Lake Hospital, will be large enough to accommodate a branch of the University of Central Florida that is in the planning stages.

Orlando Regional Healthcare System, a partner of South Lake Hospital, agreed to front

much of the cost of acquiring the property. ORHS will sell the land to the college at cost with no interest when Lake-Sumter can afford it.

"This deal is attractive from every possible angle," said George Hovis, a Clermont attorney representing Orlando Regional Healthcare and a member of the college's board of trustees.

Earlier this year, college President Robert Westrick announced negotiations were under way with OCF for a branch at the Lake-Sumter south Lake campus site off State Road 50.

When completed, the college will have 127 acres — all currently owned by the Carter fam-

ily of Orlando — on which to develop its campus.

Here are the steps that will be taken:
 ■ The college will return 40 acres, north of State Road 50 and east of town, previously donated by the Carters back to the family in exchange for another 40-acre site near the hospital site.

■ Lake-Sumter will buy an additional 43 acres from the Carters. If it can't afford to in September, the scheduled date of the purchase, ORHS will buy the land and later sell it to the college.

■ The Carters will donate another 27 acres.

■ Rounding out the 127 acres, ORHS will buy the remaining 17 acres, which also will be sold later to the college.

"The college can purchase back the balance of the land from the hospital over two or three years by paying the principle with no interest," Hovis said.

The land deal has a total value of \$1.2 million. After the acquisition is completed, the Carters still will own more than 1,000 acres adjacent to the college's land and adjoining the hospital on three sites.

That will increase the value of the land for development, family member Daryl Carter said.