

## **Press Release**

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners have entered into an option agreement with Marjory Peterson on the old hospital property in Hermiston.

The 15 month option will allow the county adequate time to do the land use, feasibility and planning work that it needs to conclude before formalizing a purchase agreement.

The property consists of 3.54 acres, plus the 32,807 square foot building which has been vacant since Good Shepherd Hospital relocated in 1984.

The property is a good fit for both parties. Mrs. Peterson hopes that the property will be put to a beneficial use that everyone can support. The county has long needed additional space so that it can implement a business plan that will be suitable for the location.

Jim Barrow, the county's Director of Administrative Services, will be in charge of doing the next steps. He said that "The commissioners are quite happy with what Peggy Clough and the Fair Board have accomplished. The community also seems to be pleased. Now, we have to prepare for the long term. The Capital Improvements Needs Committee was the initial step. The first priority given to us by that committee is to acquire adjacent land parcels, as they become available. We can't plan long term without addressing that need up front. The second priority is to prepare a master plan. My direction from the commissioners is to 'move out' on these things."