

Work begins on city's new high school

Family
who sold
land join in
ceremony

By **STACY NICK**
StacyNick@coloradoan.com

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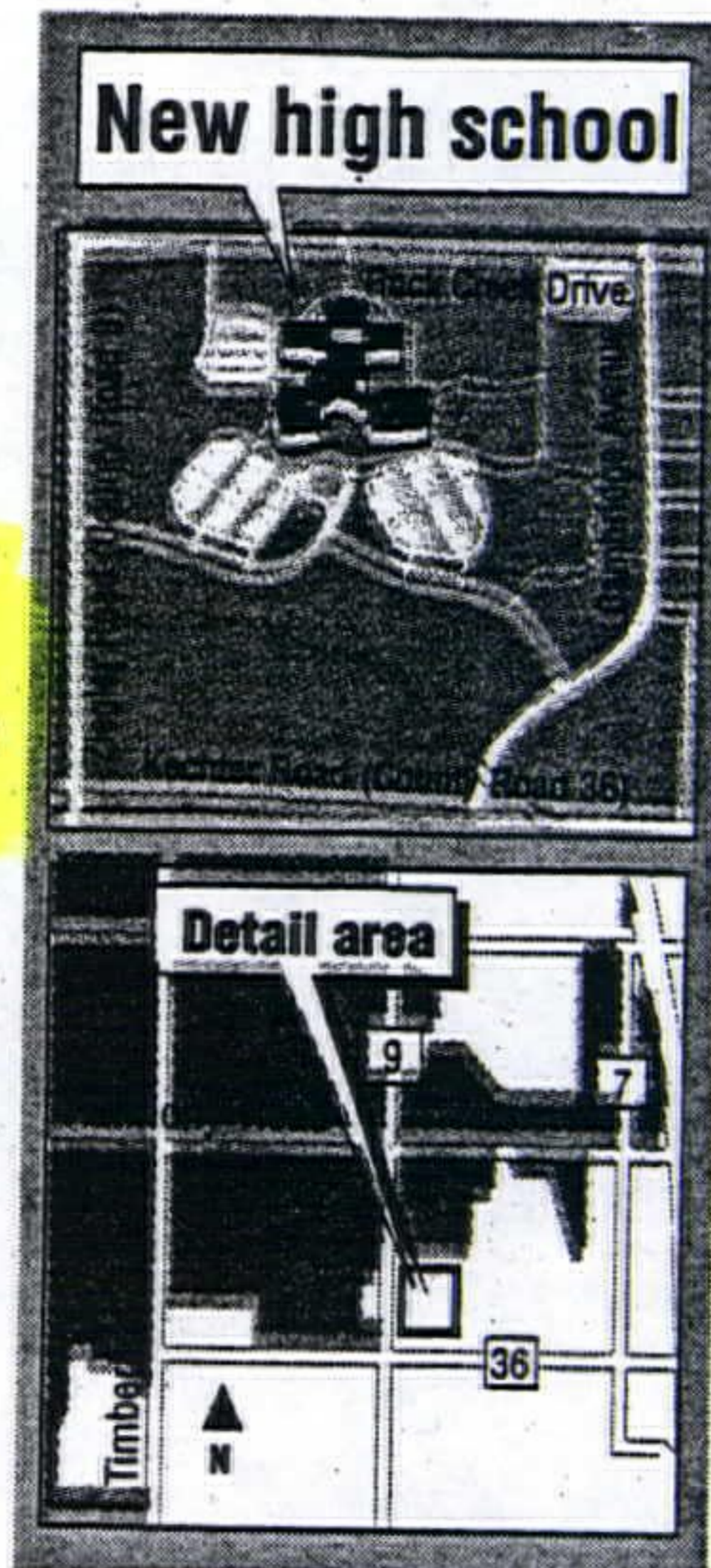
It was a cold and muddy Tuesday, but Poudre School District officials still came out to celebrate the groundbreaking for the district's newest high school.

The school, set to open in fall 2004, is located on the 153-acre Webster farm, 5400 Ziegler Road. It's a dream come true for the Webster family.

"We always intended for the land to be used this way," Harry Farmer said at the ceremony. Farmer's wife, Charla, is the daughter of Charles Webster, former owner of the farm. "We turned down bigger offers from housing developments. ... That's the way Charla's dad wanted it."

Charles Webster died Jan. 19, 2001, but his children — including daughter Sharon Oakley and son Charles Richard Webster — attended the groundbreaking. This is the second portion of the family's land that has been used for a high school. The current Fort Collins High School, 3400 Lambkin Way, near the intersection of Horsetooth and Timberline roads, was the first, Farmer said.

The school is yet to be named but will likely follow PSD's tradition of naming high schools after geographic locations.



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"This is really exciting for Poudre School District," said PSD Project Manager John Little.

Construction crews will continue foundation work on the building throughout the winter and begin pouring concrete this spring, Little said. Utilities have already been laid underground.

The school will use PSD's Sustainable Design Guidelines, which include day lighting to keep energy costs down, as well as limited access areas to keep school officials aware of everyone entering the building.

The 290,000-square-foot high school will hold a maximum of 1,800 students, opening with only about 600 sophomore and juniors in the first year of operation. Approximately \$52 million of \$175 million in bond money approved by voters in 2000 was set aside for the school.