



Extensive group pictures with their phones as county officials and students cut the ribbon to open the new Gibbs Middle School Tuesday. Pictured (from left), Elbert County 2nd District School Board representative Jennifer Davis, 1st District Board member Bill Thomas, 1st District Board member Jerry Hill, County Commissioner Bill Thomas and Charlie Beale, 1st District Board member, 1st District Board representative Mike McMillan, Mayor Tim Burkhart, Gibbs Middle School principal Cindy White, Superintendent Bill Thomas and Commissioner Dave Wright.

A Triumph of Convictions

27-year wait ends as ribbon is cut on new Gibbs Middle School

By Robert Foster

Gibbs is no thing. Conviction is quite another. When first County officials cut the ribbon on the new Gibbs Middle School

last Tuesday, it was much more than the dedication of a building for the local community it was the celebration of a victory.

The opening of the facility marks the first time a

middle school has existed in the 10,000 sq. ft. since 1985, when Gibbs Middle was closed as part of a system-wide consolidation plan by Elbert County Schools. Although 27 years was far too long for Gibbs residents to endure its absence, the new state of

the art building made some feel that was almost worth the wait.

It was the election of Mike McMillan to the first county board of education in 2010 that restarted the fight to build a new Gibbs Middle School. Mayor Tim Burkhart cheerfully admits

without Mike McMillan "there would be no new Gibbs Middle School." It was easy to raise McMillan was especially happy at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and his eyes twinkled with delight as he greeted friends and neighbors.

The new school is

everything one could have hoped for. The first room one encounters after entering the building is the gymnasium. Spectacular equipment and adorned with everything "Gibbs" including the park

is on the wall, the gym is

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Hardin Valley Middle School opens its doors with ribbon-cutting

By Ron Lay

Hardin Valley Middle School officially opened

