Bystanders snap pictures with their phones as county officials and students cut the ribbon to open the new Gibbs Middle School Tuesday. Pictured from left, Knox County 2nd District School Board representative Jennifer Owen, Law Director Bud Armstrong, 6th District BoE member Terry Hill, County Commissioners Bob Thomas and Charles Busler, BoE Chair Patti Bounds, 8th District BoE representative Mike McMillan, Mayor Tim Burchett, Gibbs Middle School principal Cindy White, Superintendent Bob Thomas and Commissioner Dave Wright.

A Triumph of Convictions

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

By Richie Beeler

Desire is one thing. Conviction is quite another. When Knox 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 Gibbs community it was the celebration of a victory.

The opening of the facility marks the first time a middle school has existed in the Corryton zip code since 1991, when Gibbs Middle was closed as part of a system-wide desegregation plan by Knox 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 like it was almost worth the wait.

It was the election of Mike McMillan to the Knox County Board of Education in 2010 that restarted the fight to build a new Gibbs Middle School. Mayor Tim Burchett cheerfully admits without Mike McMillan "there would be no new Gibbs Middle School." It was easy to see 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. Spacious, fully equipped, and adorned with everything "Gibbs" including the giant 'G' on the wall, the gym is **Continue on page 2**

Hardin Valley Middle School opens its doors with ribbon-cutting

By Ken Lay

Hardin Valley Middle School officially opened