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***Gallery Renovation Phase 1-
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony***

**March 12, 2009
at the
Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**

BRYAN, TX --- The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History is preparing to officially unveil its newly renovated Astin and Wakefield galleries to the Bryan/College Station community. On **Thursday, March 12 at 4:30 pm at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Museum's Brazos Center location**, the Brazos Valley Chamber of Commerce will assist the Museum in formally unveiling the changes made to the Museum's primary exhibit spaces in recent months. The entire community is invited to join in this free celebration, which will include a chance for visitors to see the renovations, and enjoy refreshments and remarks by Museum director Dr. Deborah Cowman, Mayor pro-tem Jason Bienski, and others.

The only Museum of its kind in the 7-county Brazos Valley region, the Museum preserves and displays spectacular collections reflecting our diverse natural and cultural heritage. The celebration will also feature the premiere of most recent additions to the Museum's permanent collections, magnificent Alaskan grizzly bear and white wolf mounted specimens donated to the Museum by Conroe natives Doyle and Ann Tow.

"We are proud to officially introduce our renovated gallery to the public," notes Deborah Cowman, executive director of the Museum. "This project has been the result of hours of careful planning and labor by our dedicated board, staff, and volunteers from across the community. And this is just the beginning. The changes to the gallery that visitors see at the Ribbon Cutting are just the first part of a multi-phased project to transform and update the Museum. We want to encourage the whole community to visit us over the coming months to see new displays, more changes to our permanent exhibits, and new developments in our library and discovery room."

Expected to attend the ceremony are members of the Museum's Board of Trustees, Museum faculty, staff, Museum Friends, volunteers, and the general public. They will be joined by the staff, members, and supporters of the Chamber of Commerce.

Admission to the Museum's permanent galleries is \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors. Children 3 and under are free. The Museum, located in the Brazos Center on Briarcrest Drive, is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and the first Sunday of the month from 1-5pm.

For additional information about this and other Museum events and exhibits, call 979.776.2195 or visit our website at www.brazosvalleymuseum.org.

BRAZOS VALLEY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

