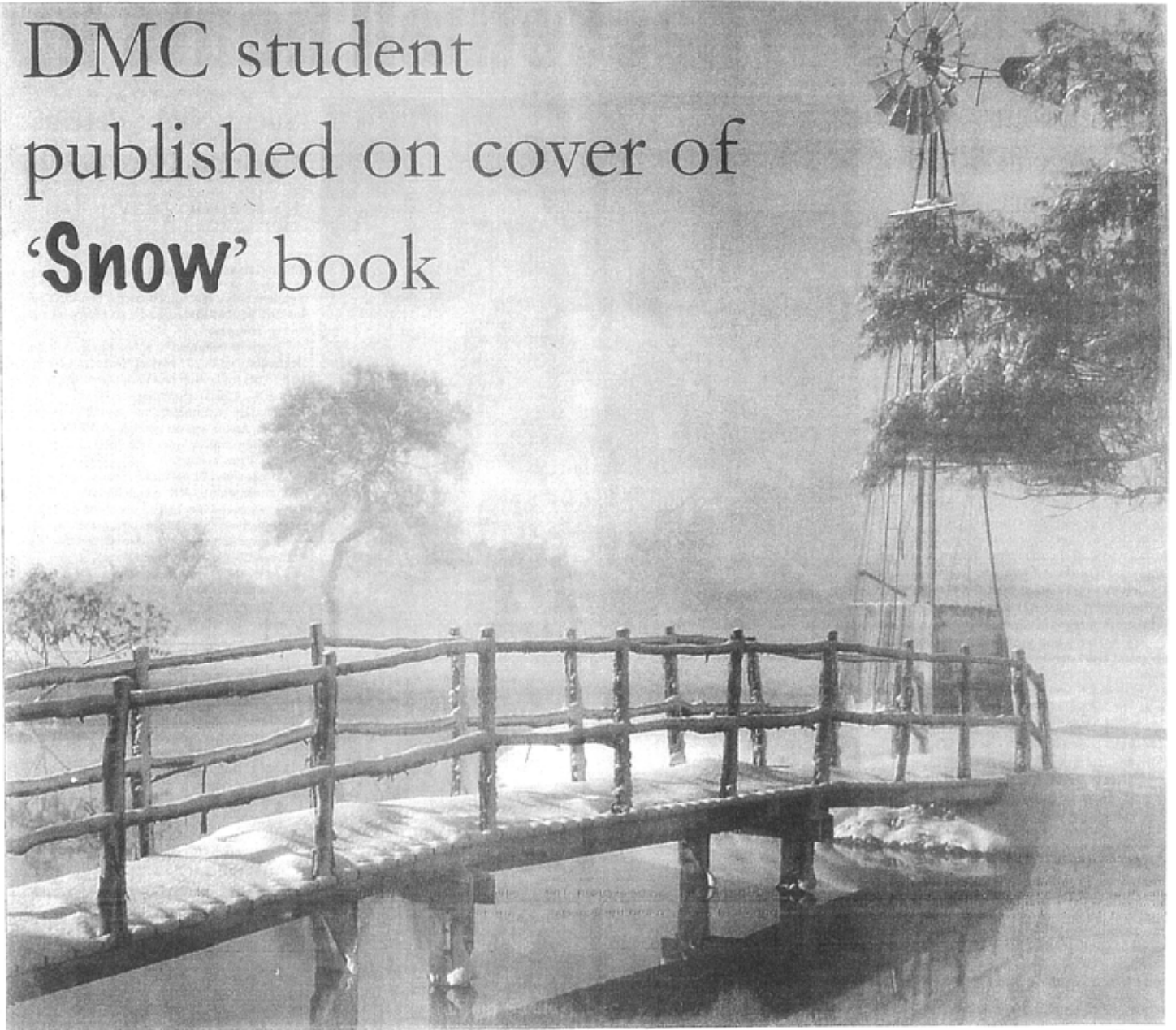


# FEATURES

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## DMC student published on cover of 'Snow' book



Dillon Johns

Top: Dillon Johns' award-winning photo placed on the cover of the 'More Snow' book. The book artist and writer wrote for More Snow happens to be Del Mar College student, Dillon Johns. The 20-year-old Computer Information Systems and Security student had just received a Sony CyberShot 6.1 megapixel digital camera as a Christmas gift. Just two weeks before Christmas, he took his new camera beyond snapping away at the snow-covered expanse of his family's ranch in Payson, Tazewell, Tenn. Bottom: Original Snow Book cover in 2005 sold at \$11.95, and the cover of the new More Snow book that is available for purchase at participating IHB locations.

While hopes of snowfall in the Coastal Bend have long since melted away, and residents have resigned themselves to another mild winter, the magic of the record snowfall on Christmas Eve of 2004 still lingers. Shoppers at HEB have no doubt seen the *Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle 2004* books displayed, and now, new books, back by popular demand are available. *More Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle and Snow For Kids*, have recently been released just in time for the holiday season.

The original idea for the Snow book came to its publisher, Kathryn Childers, when she and her son Clark Childers stood outside The Church of the Good Shepard on that fateful night. The snowfall of Christmas 2004 set another record that year. HEB was inundated with the huge numbers of photos taken of the phenomenon.

"I thought to myself, there have probably never been more pictures taken in the Coastal Bend in one single night, and I thought for sure that someone would make a book about it. However, by February, nothing had been published," Childers said.

She then went to HEB. And pitched her idea. They teamed up and created a photo contest. Winners would receive store credit and the chance to have their Christmas memories immortalized in the upcoming publication. Childers was taken aback with the runaway success of *Snow*.

"It sold out within a week," Childers said. "People wanted



another one and so we said 'ok, we'll try it again' and created *More Snow*. Then my son decided that we needed a children's book, and so he wrote this charming tale."

*Snow* has sold more than 70,000 copies since its release in October 2005. After the initial book, she realized there were more pictures, and more areas that should have been included.

The illustrations in the children's book were furnished by local clay artist, William Wilhelm. In addition to the three publications, a song was also created and will be released on an upcoming CD, "Snow Carols" and also be incorporated an upcoming symphonic performance in Corpus Christi.

people. We're kind of a traveling road show. We just keep going and going," Childers said.

The cover artist and contest winner for *More Snow* happens to be Del Mar College student, Dillon Johnson. The 20-year-old computer information system and Security major had just received a Sony Cyber-shot 6.1 megapixel digital camera as a Christmas gift. Johnson woke up on Christmas morning and immediately began snapping away at the snow-covered expanse of his family's ranch in Papalote, Texas.

While Johnson admits that he's far from a professional photographer, the recognition he's received for his award-winning shot has encouraged him to continue.

"It's kind of an awakening. I feel great about it. I always liked photography, but winning something was the last thing I expected," Johnson said.

"It's an incredible photograph, and we're so excited for Dillon," Childers said.

Johnson admits he definitely feels a little more confident snapping photos after the book and never leaves home without his camera.

He also remains optimistic about the weather forecast.

"I definitely think it's going to snow again this Christmas, at least I hope it does," Johnson said.

While Brian Hale, meteorologist for KGBT-TV 4 in the Rio Grande Valley has been quoted as saying, that the snowstorm was more unlikely than winning the lottery, Dillon is surely not alone in his Christmas wish.

For those who want a signed copy of the book, Childers will return to Corpus Christi stopping at by the HEB Plus store at 5313 Saratoga Blvd on Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Childers will also visit the HEB at 3500 Leopard on Dec. 1 from 3 to 6 p.m.

A percentage of the book proceeds will go to the Support Literacy Fund. If all copies sell, more than \$40,000 will be donated to the organization. For more information on the publication, visit [TexasSnowBook.com](http://TexasSnowBook.com).

Childers and her son have recently been on a book tour traveling throughout Texas in a converted Airstream trailer, that she has renamed The Snow Mobile.

"It's been really fun being on tour. We pull up and meet