

## Pair of books chronicles 2004 miracle Christmas snowstorm

**PASTIMES:** Authors to sign books locally today

By **T.J. AULDS**  
The Daily News

Texans, it would appear, just can't get enough of the Christmas snowstorm of 2004. The experience was so popular that a second photo book, as well as a children's book, based on the wintry blast have been published. "Miracles are too good not to tell

more than once," said Kathryn Childers, who put together "Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle 2004" last holiday featuring photos of the 2004 blanket of white stuff that covered the Texas coast from Galveston to Corpus Christi. The book was so popular, it proved that while snow may be a rare thing along the Texas coast, books on the subject could still be published.

So, in a converted Air-Stream travel trailer, Childers is roaming the coast with a sequel titled "More Snow." Her

**WHAT:** "More Snow" and "More Snow for Kids" book signings  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today  
**WHERE:** Bay Colony H-E-B, 2955 Interstate 45 South in League City

son, a screenwriter from Los Angeles, is also making the trip promoting a children's book he wrote about the Christmas snow of two years ago.

The pair will be in Galveston County today to sign copies of the books for those who still can't get

enough of the rare weather event. "It's just one of those things people to this day still talk about and probably will for generations," said Childers, a Corpus Christi-based publication relations specialist who came up with the first book after holding a contest seeking photos people had taken of the snowstorm.

Childers said that while the first book focused on the South Texas coastline near her home in Corpus

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### SNOW

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Christi, the new edition gets to others parts of the state, including Galveston County. She received more than 3,000 photos from Texas residents.

Those snapshots ranged from kids dressing up a snowman in their yard to a piano on The Strand in Galveston covered in the white stuff.

A number of the photos from this area come from local photo bug Stephen Murphy.

It was his shot of the upright piano with a layer of snow on the keys and another atop that made the book, Childers said.

Clark Childers, who serves as the driver for he and his mom's trek across the state, said the kids book

idea goes beyond talking about the "miracle" snow, but also gets into the science of the event in a way kids can understand.

The younger Childers said prior to the snowstorm, he had dabbled in writing children's books — mostly for himself.

Seems the 2004 storm inspired him to do more.

"I would hear stories of how parents were letting their kids read the (first) book, like a bed time story, just so they could see the pictures," he said. "We worked really hard to make it more than a usual children's book."

The book doesn't feature photos, but rather illustrations — made of clay.

The Childers enlisted the help of sculptor William Wilhelmi, who specialized in pottery. The artist took Clark's words and illus-

trated them into clay pieces that were photographed for the book.

The originals themselves were also formed into a one of a kind — 250-pound — book that is on display in a Corpus museum.

Despite the popularity of the subject, Childers said she expects "More Snow" and its kids' book companion to be the last of a parts of a snow book trifecta. That doesn't mean people still don't have photos to submit or stories to tell.

"There are thousands more out there, and at every stop we make, we hear more about them and the stories people tell of that miracle," she said. "You get a real feel for the Texans and how they loved this one-time event."