

# SPiGE

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## Christmas snowfall was one for the books

I'm sure some residents of South Texas' coastal area from Galveston to Brownsville thought they were dreaming when they awoke to a white Christmas in 2004, from 1.5 inches in Brownsville to 10-12 inches in Victoria. Disposable cameras

"vanished from convenience-store shelves along Interstate 37" said the story in the Express-News. Everyone wanted to take a picture of the phenomenon.

Katiryn Childers, on her way to Christmas Eve midnight service, stopped to chat with a group of friends and watch the huge flakes fall. One friend remarked, "I hope someone takes a lot of pictures: This will never happen again in a hundred years. Someone ought to publish a book."

Childers decided to do just that.

H-E-B agreed to sponsor a photo contest and Childers and company solicited works by professional photographers. The result is "Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle."

The coffee-table book, mostly filled with photos from amateur photographers, has been hugely popular, reprinted six times since Nov. 1 and selling more than 40,000 copies from H-E-B stores.

Childers says that it outsold the latest Harry Potter release at H-E-B for one month.

And people still are sending photos, she said, so there may be a "Snow II." A new photo contest was launched, and Childers is hoping this will bring more photos, particularly from the Valley and Galveston. If published, the second book would be released in October, in time for this holiday season.

— June Wormsley

Deadline for the photo contest is April 5. For more information, go to [www.texascountrybook.com](http://www.texascountrybook.com)

