

Snow book inspires photo contest

It's snowing again in South Texas.

Well, not really, but the creator of "Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle 2004" is hoping to keep the memory of the unlikely White Christmas alive with a photo contest. The contest is the precursor to several planned editions of snow books.

The Valley received frozen precipitation on Christmas Eve 2004 in the form of slush

—from which many residents here scraped the slush off car windows to create miniature "snowmen." A few hours later, bona fide snow flurries started falling, actually accumulating enough snow for more traditional snowmen.

The snow lasted well into Christmas Day and was the first in the area since 1998 when flurries fell and melted almost immediately in Mission. According to the National Weather Service, it was the first measurable snow in the area since 1895 and the first-ever Christmastime snow on record.

The book's publisher, Kathryn Childers, of Corpus Christi, said that the Rio Grande Valley would get its own edition of the coffee table book of photographs and anecdotes if enough submissions were accepted. Other editions are planned also for the Corpus Christi/Victoria and Houston/Galveston areas. If not enough entries are received, the Valley will get a special section in one of the other editions, she said.

The original book features less than a handful of photos from the Valley, including some from the Gladys Porter Zoo and residents in South Padre Island, Hebbronville and McAllen. Childers said that entries were not solicited publicly in the Valley "simply because I didn't realize how much snow had fallen there."

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Photo contest entries should be mailed to 807 Craig Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78404. To request a release form or more information e-mail kathryn@childers.com, visit <http://www.texasnowbook.com>, or phone RedCab Media at 361-887-2012. Contest entries are due May 1.

"It was our own personal miracle," she said.

The first edition has seen six reprints. The book was distributed, but not in the Valley, by H-E-B. Childers said the grocer will also distribute the new books—this time also in the Valley—and has again teamed with the publisher for a photo contest. Entries should be 5-by-7-inch photos in order for the selection committee to equally compare

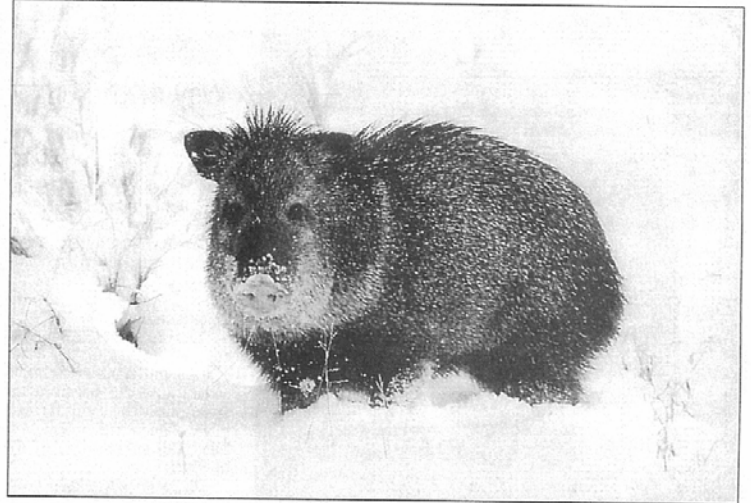
them, however other entries, including digital photographs, will be accepted through May 1.

Entry forms are available online at <http://www.texasnowbook.com> and also from H-E-B. Submissions should also include short anecdotes, which may also be published.

Submissions are being sought from professionals and the general public, Childers said. A release form must be signed, giving the publisher rights to use the photographs and any accompanying notes, but the copyright will remain with the respective owners of the photographs, she said.

Some of the proceeds from sales from the new version of the book will benefit H-E-B's literacy program, Childers said. The top three photographers will receive \$250 to \$750 gift cards from H-E-B and the top 20 finisher will receive a \$100 US Savings Bond from American Bank. Some of the judges will be from the Valley, said Childers, a former Corpus Christi television personality.

"Most coffee table books sit on the coffee table, but with the Snow book, people sit down and look at it," Childers said. "They start to giggle and laugh because it was the year that everybody got the same gift for Christmas."



Courtesy photos

