



**BREYANA SEGURA**

**S**he never turned down an opportunity to sing, be a guest speaker, or the center of attention until an auto accident resulted in the loss of her hearing.

It was a normal Friday. After school, Sheiladawn would load up her girls and head to San Antonio. The girls, ages 8 and 6 at the time, fussed about the seating arrangements, being tired, and the drive. You know, the normal stuff.

Sheiladawn was not prepared for what was about to happen.

"It was like a scene out of a horror movie," she said as she recalled that Friday afternoon in 2003. "The trailer passed us, caught the side of the road and flipped over the car three times."

The shaken mother of two, refused treatment at the scene after her youngest daughter, Kaktys, had to be revived and was airlifted.

"No way was I letting my family go to separate hospitals."

As the weeks passed by, Sheiladawn felt her health deteriorating; eventually to the point she was hospitalized. After being in a coma for 12 days, and suffering a heart attack and stroke, she awoke.

Then it happened.

"I remember thinking, those lunch carts are so noisy, why didn't it wake me up?"

Puzzled she sat there awaiting hospital staff. As the lady began to speak, she heard nothing.

Pure silence.

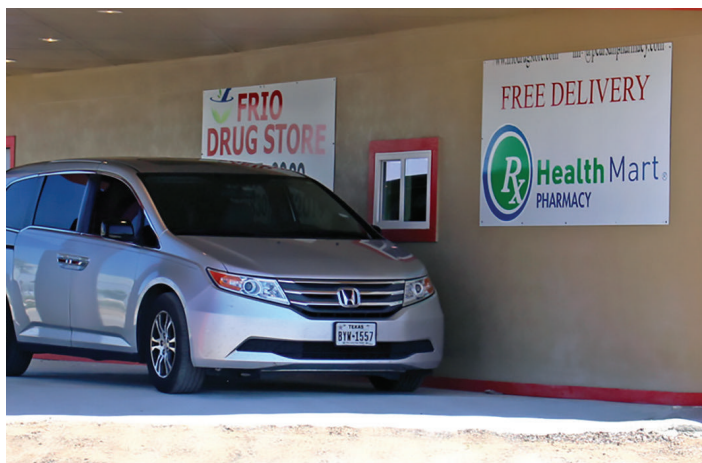
At 42 years old, the vivacious woman who once sang with a band, was deaf.

When the air-bag deployed it emitted a powder that caused an infection which led to a profound hearing loss.

"But you know what, I would rather be deaf than blind," she positively said.

(See **A SILENT AFFLICTION**, page 3)

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