

# 2020 was bittersweet



Crystal Cecil  
Record-Herald Staff

Happy 2021! While 2020 wasn't the best year (understatement), I was blessed with many things.

On January 9, 2020, I ran a list of goals for the year; little did I know what a year it would be.

That Wednesday, when the R-H hit the stands, my little girl was having surgery to have her adenoids removed and a second set of tubes.

I had high hopes for the quick, outpatient surgery on my then-5-year-old. Conleigh suffered from ear infections as early as 3 months old, bouncing from one antibiotic to another for her first few years of life. A first set of tubes helped, both those didn't last long. Hearing problems were an obvious result. Alongside hearing loss, speech was becoming an issue; if you can't hear correctly, how can you speak correctly?

The audiologist explained Conleigh's hearing to our son, Cayden, in such a simple way.

"You know what it sounds like when Mom or Dad is talking to you from another room? That's what it sounds like all the time for your little sister—everyone sounds 2 rooms away."

Wow. Fast forward to now—progress.

Her surgery was a success and my girl has made leaps and bounds in speech im-

provements, thanks to her ability to hear clearly, her speech therapist and teacher at GCPS, and lots of practice and repetition at home. Just before Christmas break, she was READING to me—an entire little book—and I understood every word. She enunciates the endings of her words now, the part she unknowingly used to leave off. Example, she said "We took them to the Post Office." That used to be "We too the to the Pos Offi."

That is one of my biggest blessings from 2020.

Other highlights: When the world shut down, my family was able to spend good quality time together... mostly outside, which was great.

While both my job and my husband's didn't shut down, with school moving to virtual, we had much more opportunity to spend time together as a family, and it was needed.

I taught my daughter how to roller-skate. Cayden learned how to fish (Conleigh said it's not for her). She took up softball in a big way, playing for the first time. Cayden decided he might just want to be a runner and a few races.

I cooked and baked

a LOT, because restaurant options were slim or nonexistent at times. (I am now officially a make-it-from-scratch type!)

We welcomed a kitten and 5 unexpected puppies to make our family a little more crazy.

My husband and I celebrated a decade of marriage... with an out-of-state trip mainly so I could eat inside of a restaurant.

My health overall wasn't great, including mentally and emotionally, but thankfully and with the help of great friends, I got that all sorted out for the second half of the year. My diabetes kicked my tail, thanks to some big stress, and steroids for poison oak was the icing on the cupcake.

I worked out a lot, despite the pandemic. I successfully made it to 296 consecutive days of workouts... and then I dropped the ball.

I also dropped the ball on a lot of connections; I cut several ties with people I thought were good for me. What a breath of fresh air it has been.

This year, I'll continue to strive for good health, less stress, more good times and happiness.

I came out of 2020 unscathed for the most part. While many parts of the year will forever be engraved into my heart and memory, it was a bit... *bittersweet*. I look forward to this new year.

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