

# Sew, how are you holding up?

The pandemic's effect on home life at the Oregon Coast

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*For the TODAY*

Is anyone else keeping tally marks on the wall to count days in captivity? Oregon is quickly approaching 40 days of Stay Home, Stay Safe protocols. We have spent weeks washing our hands, keeping our distance and finding things to do. After three weeks of looking at businesses and organizations big and small, this week we asked individuals “How are you holding up?”

As it turns out human emotions run the gamut, as one would expect. Introverts and homebodies have trained for this their entire lives and aren't really seeing a big change. Others are used to a full social calendar and working closely with the public or large groups; many of these are feeling the pinch

as they lose the human contact they crave. Lincoln City Councilor Riley Hoagland doesn't think it is all bad. As a matter of fact, he couldn't come up with the hardest part of all of this, because he says “it isn't hard, inconvenient? Sure, but not terrible.” He has found ways to use this down time to give him purpose, such as making face masks. So far, he has made more than 150 masks. He started as soon as he learned that there was a nationwide shortage of personal protective equipment. Knowing that official frontline workers would need the N95s and the medical-grade masks, he started sewing handmade cloth masks that he donates and sells to locals. He also keeps busy and upbeat working on his art, honing his guitar skills and spending time outdoors with his children.

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ABOVE: Lincoln City Councilor Riley Hoagland works on reusable cloth masks for donation and sale. BELOW: A child plays in the early morning on an empty stretch of Lincoln City beaches.

