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## Journalist learns about bone issue; *At least six more weeks in splint required*



**This is an X-ray from Feb. 28.**

*X-ray by The Orthopaedic Institute.*

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**By Jeff M. Hardison © March 24, 2019 at 8:19 a.m.**

**JEMLANDS** -- Jeff M. Hardison, editor and publisher of HardisonInk.com, learned late Thursday (March 21) that an injury he suffered on Dec. 8 is not healing as an orthopedic surgeon had anticipated.

The journalist broke his ulna, fractured his radius and broke bones in his wrist when he fell while running backwards and trying to take a picture of a float in the Chiefland Christmas Parade that Saturday night.

When the heel of his left foot hit a reflector in the middle of Main Street (U.S. Highway 19) just north of Park Avenue, his full weight and the weight of a camera and other equipment went to one point on his left arm, where the bones would not support it.

Some bones broke and also pierced the skin and his arm.

The man was transported to North Florida Regional Medical Center, where he went directly into to be helped via emergency surgery.

A metal plate and four screws are holding the broken arm bone together. Seven small pins are holding wrist bone parts together.

X-rays taken on Jan. 24 and Feb. 28 did not show orthopedic surgeon Dr. Jason T. Shinn of The Orthopaedic Institute that the bones were mending together.

That surgeon determined that a CT scan on March 20 reflected lack of enough

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progress.

“Dr. Shinn told me that he is going to recommend that I use a machine to stimulate bone growth,” Hardison said. “And so, more than 90 days after my compound fracture, and subsequent emergency surgery, I still must wear a plastic splint for at least another six weeks.”



**This is a CT scan taken March 20. The light-colored thick lines on either side of the arm are from the CT scan being taken while the splint was worn.**  
*CT scan by Invision Imaging.*

With only metal holding the bone parts together, the patient is taking care in regard to use of his left arm and wrist, in part by avoiding crowded areas.

If the machine fails to stimulate bone growth, then surgery will be required to remove the metal, scrape the bones and replace the metal devices, with hope that this will make the bones heal together.

The journalist remains as upbeat as usual.

“I’m happy,” he said. “I can type with one hand very quickly. This injury has given me insight about health care in this part of Florida, the costs and benefits of Florida Blue

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health insurance, and more.”

The multiple award-winning daily and weekly reporter and editor said he appreciates all of the help and support given to him by the family, friends and community.

“As usual,” he said, “nothing is going to break my stride -- not even a little square reflector in the middle of U.S. Highway 19.”