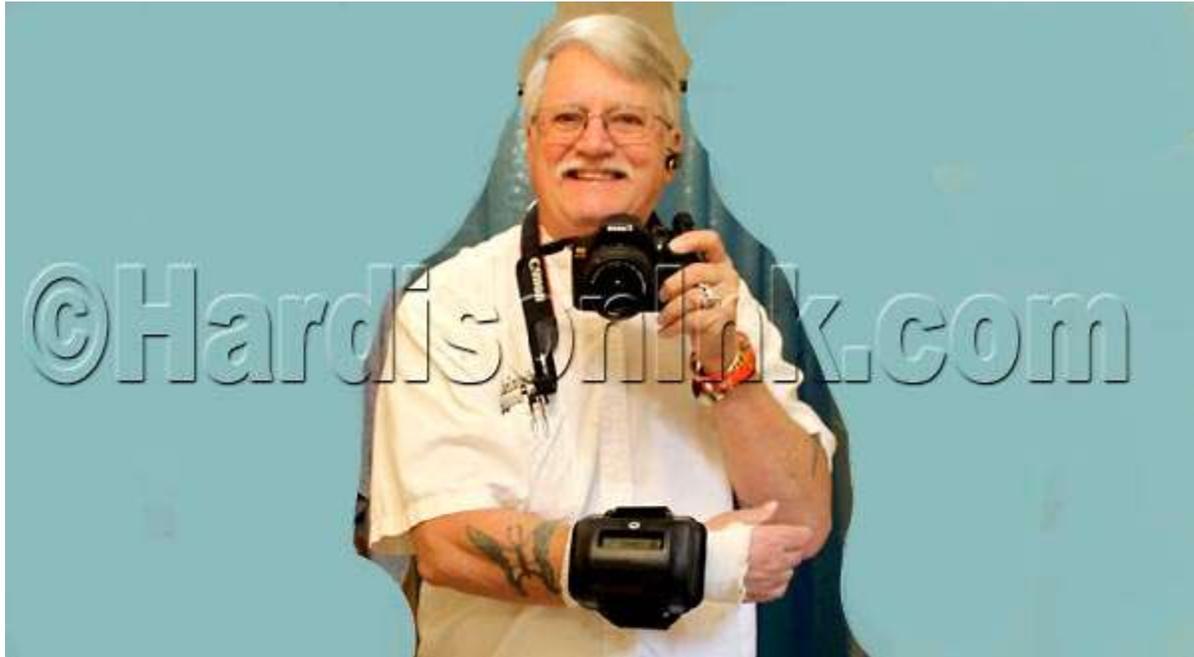


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Publisher starts 90-day bone-growth program



The journalist shows the machine by taking a picture of himself in a mirror on Thursday afternoon (April 4). The magnetic field travels through the splint he is wearing.

Story and Photo

By Jeff M. Hardison © April 6, 2019 at 8:19 a.m.

JEMLANDS -- Jeff M. Hardison, editor and publisher of HardisonInk.com, started on March 29 a 90-day program, where he will put a device on his severely injured left arm and wrist for three hours each day for 90 days.

A saleswoman for company that sells the device said this machine puts a magnetic field around the area where bones are not fusing, such as in the case of the injured journalist, and it triggers the natural process of bone-building, which in some people is not happening.

She said the odds are extremely high that this procedure will bring the results sought by the orthopedic surgeon who prescribed it.

Hardison broke his ulna, fractured his radius and broke bones in his wrist on Dec. 8, 2018, 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.

"I've told enough people this story," he said on Saturday (April 6), and I know enough people have read this, where I need to keep people interested in my wellbeing informed. So, here is the update."

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 be helped via emergency surgery.

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

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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. A CT scan taken on March 20 reflected –again – a lack of enough progress.

“I thought I would be completely healed in six weeks,” Hardison said, “because I based my timeline on zero research. I was just thinking broken bones heal in six weeks.”

The journalist learned that health insurance companies approve this device immediately for doctors requesting it for bone fractures in people’s necks, however for other bones, it take 90 days of non-fusing before the insurance company will fund the device for the patient.

The journalist found an article from January that shows hope for people with similar bone issues in the future. Stem cells can expedite healing significantly, according to research. The article can be read by clicking [HERE](#).

“Unfortunately for me,” he said, “I lack the financial wherewithal to use anything other than current accepted practices by health insurance companies,” he said on Saturday morning (April 6). “However, this does bode well for people with broken bones in the future if things go as I hope they do in regard to humanity in the future.”

Since the injury, the journalist has found several people in the Tri-County Area have suffered similar breaks, including with the installation of metal parts, where sometimes it actually does take six months to complete the process.

“The only stories I’ve heard that concern me,” he said, “are the people who told me a second surgery was required.”

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 when possible.

“So far, there was one political gadfly who elbowed me in my left arm, as friends are inclined to do, during a meeting at the Bronson Town Council, whom I had to inform that he was endangering my healing.

“The only other person who nudged me similarly,” Hardison continued, “as a friend and not as a person intending to harm me, was an attorney who was at a law enforcement event in Trenton. Nevertheless, I am taking care to provide fewer opportunities for unintentional harm.”

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 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 – and certainly not political gadflies or attorneys.”