

Three-year-old is little hero, helps great-grandfather

By Lori Kirkpatrick
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What began as a typical morning for Al and Rosa Paquette quickly turned into an eventful day. It was Aug. 4 when the couple was babysitting their great-grandson, three-year-old Christopher Jones, as they usually did several times a week. Al and Christopher went outside together, like any other day, to fill the birdfeeders and feed the chickens. Al, who is "Papa" to his great-grandson, reached down to fill the metal can with chicken feed when he began to feel dizzy.

"I tried to sit down on the can, which was the closest thing to me at the time, but I fell. I got up and sat on the can again, but apparently I fell on a woodpile that was close by, because I cut my head and ear on it. I tried to call my wife, but she couldn't hear me. My grandson was watching me the whole time. I don't remember much after that," said Paquette.

At the age of three, Christopher ran quickly into the house and told his grandma, "Papa fall down. Papa's on the ground. Come on, Grandma."

Rosa called the rescue squad, and when Pender EMS arrived, they let the concerned little boy sit with his Papa. EMS workers told Christopher that he was a little hero, and asked if he wanted to help his grandpa. They gave him



Photo contributed
Three-year-old Christopher Jones keeps a close watch on his great-grandfather as EMS personnel treat his injuries.

a towel to hold on Papa's ear, which was cut as a result of the fall. Paquette was later transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center, where he was treated and released the next day.

"I couldn't believe that this three-year-old boy had enough initiative to run in and get his Grandma. There's no telling how long I might have been there if Christopher hadn't been with me. I was just so proud of him," said Paquette. Paquette had served in the

I was dehydrated, my blood sugar was low and my blood pressure was high. I am really proud of Christopher, and I am also really proud of the Pender rescue services. They did a really good job," said Paquette.

Christopher loves the time he spends with his great-grandparents, and the feeling is mutual. Al and Rosa love and enjoy their great-grandson, Christopher, and another great-grandson, Skyler, who also spends time with them.

"Christopher and Skyler are three weeks apart in age, and they follow me wherever I go. They want to be with Papa. When Christopher says, 'Papa, Papa, it's not dark outside,' that means it's time for me to get up and do something with them. We go fishing, I take them up to the woods to put corn out for the deer, and we feed the birds. They are good little fellas. I love them to death," said Paquette.

Not only is Christopher a little hero, but according to Papa, he is also mechanically inclined.

"I have a little shop out here behind my house, and I have a creeper like you use to put up under cars to work on them. The other day, he had it under his tricycle. He said he had some loose bolts on his tricycle. He got a pipe wrench, but after trying it, he said it wasn't big enough," laughed Paquette.

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