

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Jon Walker Stables and Riding Academy recently brought two miniature ponies and a pygmy goat to visit with residents at Cambridge House.

Hoof Magic

Stable owner brings miniature merriment to senior-living residents

Special to The News Herald

HILDEBRAN

Residents of a local nursing home recently welcomed some special visitors.

Jon Walker Stables and Riding Academy brought a two-horse trailer chock-full of cuteness to Cambridge House, a DePaul senior-living community in Hildebran.

Stable owner and instructor Carolyn Walker came with several youth volunteers, but the real showstoppers were miniature horses Aladdin and Magic, and Bandit the pygmy goat.

Walker heard Cambridge House resident Ruth Nordwick was turning 104 and decided to bring some farm animals to the residents to help celebrate.

"We brought a piece of the farm to them," she said. "Some of the seniors grew up with horses, especially in this area. It is a privilege and honor to make people smile and give them something to look forward to."

Residents came outdoors to visit with Magic and Aladdin, while Bandit was carried indoors for room visits.

"All the residents absolutely loved seeing the animals," said activities director Cheri Hahn. "There were smiles and laughter aplenty."

Jon Walker Stables, located in Gastonia, offers riding lessons, summer camps and birthday parties, and hosts weddings.

For more information about Cambridge House, call Administrator Amber Minton at 828-325-4980 or visit aminton@depaul.org.



Cambridge House resident Donna Parker cuddles with Bandit.



Lois and Dan Wiggins visit with Magic the miniature pony.