

# Over the Hill Farms gives horses new life

By **EDD PRITCHARD**  
GateHouse Media Ohio

Call it a case of love at first sight, because Celeste Goldie saw the horse and fell in love.

That's not how this is supposed to work, she admits. The goal is to find horses and rescue them. Celeste, 24, brings the horses to Over The Hill Farm, owned by her grandparents, and trains them so they can be sold.

But selling the horse she calls Big Boy might be difficult. Big Boy is a thoroughbred originally named Lord of Storms. His bloodline contains familiar names: Secretariat, Seattle Slew, A.P. Indy, Affirmed, Alydar, and Northern Dancer. He wound up in a sale lot at Sugar Creek — facing death — after his owner abandoned him.

"I kind of like to work with the diamonds in the rough," Celeste said, noting she has succeeded in training "problem horses" that others have given up on.

Celeste couldn't let Big



Bob Rossiter, GateHouse Media Ohio

**Celeste Goldie stands with Big Boy, a thoroughbred she is working to retrain at Over The Hill Farm in Pike Township. Goldie rescued the horse who originally was named Lord of Storms, according to the Thoroughbred Database.**

Boy — so named because he's 16.3 hands tall or about 67 inches at the top of his shoulder blades — become pet food. So he's one of the 11 horses, including several quarter horses and a now tame mustang, calling the farm at 3595 Haut St. SW home.

Over the past six months, the thoroughbred has taken well to training, Celeste said. She's uncertain if Big Boy will be sold or remain at Over The Hill Farm and become part of the plans Celeste and her grandmother, Debbie Goldie, have to develop the farm as an equine training and event center.

In addition to rescuing and training older horses, they are offering riding lessons, birthday parties for all ages, training for showing horses and clinics with horses. They also have scheduled events with the first one on Valentine's Day and others set for St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Summer day camps and church retreats also are being considered.

The facility is available for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who are working to achieve their Horsemanship Merit Badge.

They want to help people learn more about horses and how to interact with the animals, Debbie Goldie said.

"You can come relax. Enjoy riding a horse and spending a day in the coun-

try," she said.

Debbie works as a certified medical assistant at Arlington Christian Academy in Summit County and has been riding horses since she was 3 years old. Celeste rode a horse and cleaned a stall for the first time at a friend's home when she was 6 and was hooked. When she told her grandmother she wanted a horse, "it didn't take a lot to twist my arm," Debbie said.

Celeste — who has a bachelor's degree in biology from Walsh University and is studying nursing at Aultman College — was 13 when she started training horses. She also has competed with show horses. She started training rescue horses two years ago.

"We just want them to have good homes, good lives," Debbie said of the rescue effort.

Visit the Facebook page for Over The Hill Farm, which has an East Sparta address, to get more information about events and the facility.

Edd Pritchard is a writer with the Canton Repository.



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