

Royalty:

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were young," she said. "We had a great summer traveling through the Northwest representing the CJD. ... It was very, very memorable." She and Miller were 1996 EHS graduates, while Archibald was a 1997 graduate of EHS. McDowell and her husband, Matt, have four children. One son shows horses and the family does more with reining horses instead of royalty. They also have one daughter "who wasn't horse crazy," she said.

Other family members did participate in CJD courts. Her younger sisters, Brooke Follett Pace and Chelcee Noland were CJD royalty.

Since her reign, the McDowells train and raise horses at Harrison Idaho. During the school year, she and her sons are in Enterprise.

She fears she'll likely miss the CJD this year, because horse shows often conflict with it.

Miller, one of the 1996 princesses, was unavailable for an interview being at a pro rodeo event her son was participating in out of state.

Archibald, who currently lives in Dallas, Oregon, and works for a land broker, but is hoping to move back to the county, remembers her reign well.

"It was one of the best summers of my life growing up," she said. "We had a lot of fun and got to see lots of things. We had lot of great experiences between the three of us."

The 1997 EHS graduate recalls her grandmother, Beverly Shortridge, was on the CJD court in the 1950s, as were other relatives, although her daughters have not gotten into rodeo royalty.

2011

Ten years ago, in 2011, Queen Silje Christoffersen and Princess Brooke Green-

shields reigned.

"It was kind of a passion," Christoffersen said. "I'd been riding since I was about 4 or 5 and got into the Nez Perce Riders 4-H Club. I grew up riding in all different disciplines ... I did it all in 4-H."

She remembers the Innaha Rodeo "when it was still happening."

She also looked up to people who had served before her on the CJD court.

"Seemed like a challenge and to represent the community and to help bring money in," she said.

Born in Zimbabwe, the daughter of Nils and Anette Christoffersen moved at age 4 to the county where she grew up.

She graduated from EHS in 2012 and spent a year in Norway going to school. She speaks Norwegian courtesy of her parents and that year in Norway. She then went to college in Massachusetts studying natural resources, but shifted to graphic design after college. Now she works as a graphic designer in Hailey, Idaho.

"I do kind of miss home and I think we'd like to eventually make our way back," she said.

Her boyfriend, Kevin Harlander, fought fires for the state here. She also has an aunt and uncle in Lostine.

"It was a really fun year with Brooke," Christoffersen said of her year as queen. "We were really close. ... I loved riding — there's nothing like doing that in your hometown rodeo. ... It's one of my favorite things to go back to the rodeo every year."

Her memories are of more than the rodeo. Wallowa County is not just a beautiful backdrop, but full of animals and history, she said.

"It's about what it means to be a real place," she said. "I appreciate the rodeo and what it offers and represents for the community."

Greenshields also has fond memories of her reign.



Kevin Harlander/Contributed Photo

Silje Christoffersen, queen of the 2011 Chief Joseph Days Rodeo, enjoys an active outdoor lifestyle such as here when she was rafting on the Snake River in Hells Canyon.



Nicole Slater/Contributed Photo

The 2011 Chief Joseph Days court, from left, Princess Brooke Greenshields and Queen Silje Christoffersen pose.

"I always wanted to do it. Doing horse 4-H and that was the natural progression of things," she said. "Silje and I were good friends and it was a really fun year."

Greenshields, who works as a veterinarian at the Double Arrow Veterinarian Clinic in Enterprise that is co-owned by her father, still volunteers at the rodeo.

"It's great to come full

circle and I hope to continue to work with the rodeo in the future," she said.

The 2012 EHS grad later attended Oregon State University for both her undergraduate and veterinarian degrees.

"Maybe someday," she said of plans to have a child. "Right now, I'm busy enough with my career. ... We work on everything here."



Contributed Photo

Now a veterinarian at Double Arrow Veterinary Clinic in Enterprise, 2011 Chief Joseph Days Princess Brooke Greenshields still helps with the rodeo. Here she poses with her dog, Ridge.

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