



Photo by Solomon Liston

BY SAVANNAH NELSON

GROWING UP GLENWOOD

Every once in a while, you come across someone who is rooted. They're grounded with a sense of purpose and place, and their history inspires their future.

Jesse Hood is a prime example: he's a Glenwood Springs native—he was born here, raised here, and came back to the valley to stay. After graduating from college he has since become a permanent fixture in the town. Not only is he rooted in a sense of generational tradition with his family, he's also given back to the community in a big way. Jesse serves as the Battalion Chief for the Glenwood Springs Fire Department.

He and his twin brother Joe, born two minutes prior, grew up on the Hood family ranch, where they still live today. The ranch has been in their family for over 100 years; Joe and his wife have taken over the ranch operations and are bringing up a future generation of Glenwoodites—raised on gorgeous views of Mt. Sopris, hard work, and that alluring small-town charm.

“We grew up running around the ranch and spent most of our time outside getting into all sorts of trouble,” Jesse said. “My mother is a retired high school teacher who loves horses, dogs, and her other many assorted animals...maybe more than my brother and me.”

According to Jesse, there's just something about his hometown that he couldn't (and wouldn't want to) shake. Beyond the outdoors—biking, rafting, some skiing, and spending time on the ranch with his family—there's another element to Glenwood Springs that makes it a special place to be.

“We have a sense of community and a shared history,” Jesse said. “I like the small-town feel and that we all know and care for each other.”

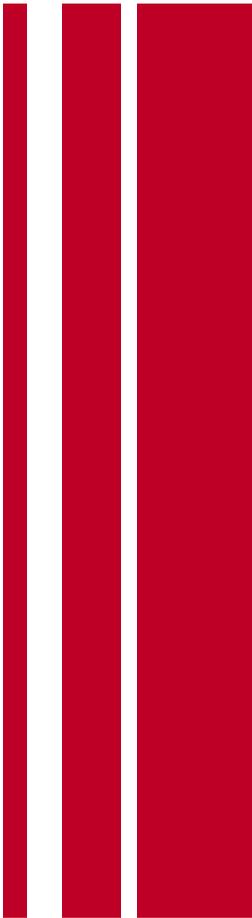
When he initially accepted a job at the Grand Junction Fire Department several years ago, Jesse felt an instant sense of regret. Instead, he decided to follow his intuition and settle into his roots back in Glenwood Springs.

Jesse found his way to firefighting naturally: he liked to help people, and didn't love the idea of sitting behind a desk, and his experience driving an ambulance felt like an organic first step. It was another opportunity to deepen his roots within the Glenwood Springs community, which he credits as a great place to live and work and grow.

And he's not alone; the Glenwood Springs Fire Department has several firefighters who are native to Glenwood Springs. Tobie Powell, Tyler Thulson, Ryan Wyckoff, Josh Allison, Doug Trauger, Beau Harris, and Hunter McCallum are all from the Roaring Fork Valley and have chosen to stay in the area as active firefighters.

There's something about this place; not only are people choosing to stay, they are also going out of their way to serve and give back to the community. It's a process of growing, raising, nurturing, and then repeating on the other end.

“Personally, I'm grateful for our town and everyone here who has known my family and helped raise me and my brother,” Jesse said. “It's an honor to serve our community.”



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