

The four passions of Todd Langfield

Sitting in his office at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Todd Langfield shared his four passions in life: his three-year-old son, golf, the Dave Matthews Band and work.

Passion #1

As assistant general manager at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Todd works hard, but takes the time to share joint custody of his son, Riley. Even though he claims the craziest thing he did was get married, he adores his son.



Todd's son Riley

For Todd, a great evening is going home and hanging out with his son. He likes to play with him and cook him his favorite meal – hot dogs. When there's time, they watch movies, including Todd's favorite: Spider Man II. Todd likes the fact that this movie centers on the crime-fighting ability possessed by Spider Man, who gained superhuman strength and the spider-like ability to cling to any surface after being bit by a genetically-altered spider.

The character is seen not only on the Langfield's television, but also in Riley's room. As he has a "ton of stuff" featuring Spiderman, including pajamas, bed sheets, wall posters as well as band-aids.

His son also loves trains. "He's a train fanatic, even though I'm not," said Todd. One of Riley's favorite characters is Thomas

the Train. When the character visited the Denver metro area, Todd took Riley to enjoy the festivities, which included an opportunity to ride on board a train pulled by Thomas. As the only grandchild among Todd's 11 brothers and sisters, Riley is "spoiled rotten." Todd's dad even retired to spend time with his grandson.

With that size of a family, it's no surprise that Todd's favorite holiday is Christmas. His favorite memory revolves around 50 to 70 relatives walking together to church, singing carols and coming back to grandma's house where they each got a present from her. Even though he recently lost his grandma, he hopes the tradition continues.



Family is important to Todd. As you can imagine, they are always celebrating a wedding, party or holiday. Todd said he attends as many family functions as he can. "It's always a good time, the kids make it crazy."

Passion #2

Besides Riley, playing golf is Todd's favorite thing in the world. With a 10 handicap, he can certainly play the game. Even though Riley is a toddler, Todd has given his son a putter and has taken him a few times to the golf course. However, Riley thinks it easier to pick up the little white dimpled ball and drop it in the hole instead of hitting it into the hole. However, Todd laughingly declared that Riley will play golf. (*Is there another Tiger Woods being groomed?*)



Todd and his sister Carrie

Todd's passion for golf started early as he played golf in high school and lettered three years.

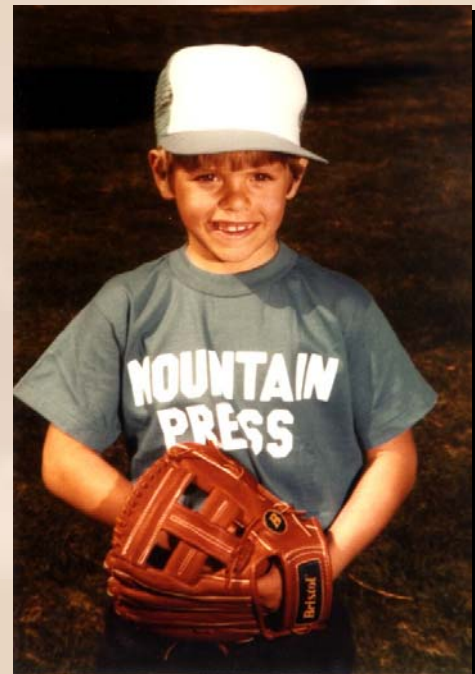


Todd claims he doesn't have a favorite book because he never reads. However, he has read a few books about Tiger Woods, the phenomenal golf star. When he takes the time to watch television, he likes *Rome*, a HBO drama of love and betrayal, masters and slaves and husbands and wives, which chronicles the epic times that saw the fall of a republic and the creation of an empire. He said he enjoys learning about history with the "made for TV" flair. Not surprisingly, Todd added that he does watch golf on TV.

Todd's favorite golf course is Pebble Beach. Even though a round of golf there costs more than \$300, Todd claims it's worth every penny.

"It is its own world and to have been able to play where the US Open has been held and where famous players have played, it's amazing."

If he could travel anywhere in the world, Todd said he would go to Scotland so he play at St. Andrews, the birthplace of golf. Another choice would be to play again at Pebble Beach. When he played at the famous course, he claims he had a bad day and shot 94 (par is 72). He normally shoots in the low 80s. Todd shared



that his stroke was off. He usually hits from right to left and for some reasons that day he hit from left to right, resulting in numerous double boogies. With this encumbrance, he hit three to four balls in the water hazard, which is the Pacific Ocean as the golf course sits on the rugged coastline. He can't figure out what caused his bad strokes as he was playing fine the whole week before arriving at the Mecca of golf courses. He kiddingly said he still has nightmares about his poor performance on the course.

While he didn't do great on the golf course, the California trip was still fun. It all started in southern California with friends who had tickets to see the Dave Matthews Band, which is another one of Todd's passions. He said he's a fanatic.

Passion #3

The Dave Matthews Band plays a variety of music traditions, improvising and shifting seamlessly between various off-kilter beats while weaving jazzy reeds, progressive blues and hard-hitting rock into toe-tapping rhythms. Over the years, Todd has seen the band 10 times, including traveling to Kansas and California to rock with the popular band. In the Denver metro area, the Dave Matthews Band has performed at the Pepsi Center, Mile High Stadium, Boulder Theater and Red Rocks, and Todd was there for each and every performance.



Todd and Riley

Todd believes Red Rocks, with its 7,000 seats, is the best place for a concert. The one-of-a-kind facility is nestled in the Rocky Mountain foothills, fifteen miles west of Denver. . With Mother Nature as the architect, the design of the open-air amphitheatre consists of two, three hundred-foot monoliths that provide acoustic perfection for any performance.

Recently, the band had a four-night gig at Red Rocks, and Todd was there each night. Originally scheduled for three nights, the band added another performance to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims. Todd was able to score a ticket to this sold-out event. "It was like heaven to me (to attend all four concerts)," he said. He added that the band only played one song twice during the concerts, and that song was *Louisiana Bayou*. Interestingly, Todd took a different date (one night, it was his sister) each night to the concert. To be able to purchase tickets to the sold out concerts, Todd joined the Warehouse, the Dave Matthew's Band fan club. With his membership, he has the opportunity to purchase tickets in advance of the general public.

When asked to name his favorite song, Todd replied that he couldn't answer, but he quickly added that he could name his favorite 20 songs, starting with *Two Step*.

Passion #4

The Denver native planned his career in the guest services field. When he was 19 or 20, he decided he wanted to do something in this industry. While attending high school, he worked at a local hotel setting up for special events, such as weddings and business meetings.

While in college, Todd worked for K-M Concessions at the annual Stock Show, held each January in Denver. He learned about this opportunity through his friendship with Sean McNicholas.

After he graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in business administration and a minor in restaurant and resort management, he called Kevin McNicholas looking for a job.

Todd started at the Denver Zoo as a runner, and then became manager of one of the zoo's concession stands. In a few short weeks, he became assistant concession manager. His next job was at the National Western Stock Show Complex. Todd claims it was the hardest place he has ever worked. However, he said it was good training as you pretty much do everything. He even learned that overcoming adversity provides great stories.



Todd shared that one of his worst experiences has now become one of his funniest experiences. It all started when K-M Concessions catered an air show at the Jeffco Airport, located in the foothills of Denver. After a long day of setting up tents for food service on the tarmac, a huge windstorm came through and tore down everything – as Todd said, “alienated everything.” The team had to stay and re-do all their hard work. When the show opened the next morning, the concessions operations were “hammered” as the weary workers were expecting only 50,000 people and more than 200,000 showed up. Todd shared that at one point the line for bottled water was so long, it took more than one hour to make a purchase. However, the tired team managed to make it through the day. But as they were getting ready to

leave for a well-deserved night's rest, another windstorm occurred and tore down everything down. Again, the team stayed into the early morning hours setting up tents, tables and grills again. They survived that night and the next day, too.

After five years of working at the Stock Show, Todd moved to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo as catering and food and beverage manager. He's now the assistant general manager for the operations.



In the last year, Todd added chef to his assistant general manager title. He now cooks for all the catering events at the zoo. With no formal training, he claims the best way to learn is by doing. He researches menus and recipes on-line; he also asks for help from others.

Amazingly, Todd doesn't eat things that are white and not sweet, including cottage cheese, sour cream, ranch dressing, etc. He said he just doesn't like the taste. However, it doesn't bother the up and coming chef to cook with "white" things.

Todd's favorite food was his grandmother's rigatoni and meatballs. He shared that his grandmother would make feasts with enough food for 40 when only six people were there to enjoy the meal. Over the years, Todd has tried to replicate his grandmother's recipe, but hasn't been successful even though she told him exactly how she made that tasty dish. He has tried the recipe more than a dozen times and still doesn't have it right. Yet, Todd plans to keep trying even though his grandmother can no longer advise him.

There's more to Todd than just these four passions. He shared he also likes to ski. However, he doesn't snowboard because he's too old (?). "It beats you up. When you fall, you fall hard," he emphasized. His favorite place to ski is the outback at Keystone.

Todd may claim he's old, but his four passions in life are bound to keep him young.