

# Lover left in shadows as Panayiotou seeks bail

Death threats drive PE businessman's solitary mistress to near-breakdown

NASHIRA DAVIDS

CHANELLE Coutts now leads a solitary life — isolated from her friends and the man she loves. Her lawyer, Danie Gouws, says he has advised her not to speak to Christopher Panayiotou, who stands accused of murdering his wife Jayde.

This week a date was set for the businessman to appeal the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court's decision to deny him bail.

As his court battle intensifies, his lover is fighting to keep her life from falling apart. After death threats and a near psychological breakdown, Coutts has gone back to managing the grocery store owned by the Panayiotous in Algoa Park. But, Gouws said, she was afraid.

The social media onslaught against her shows no signs of dying down. "Obviously on social media she is still not being treated in a good way," said Gouws.

"She is not talking to her friends at this stage. She is just by herself. She goes to work and goes back home and from there she will come to my offices if she needs to speak to me. She works, goes back home and stays at home. You can understand she is frightened to go out."

Recently she spoke candidly to YOU magazine to dispel rumours

doing the rounds — that she was pregnant with Panayiotou's baby, that she was promoted from cashier to manager when they started the affair and that she would take to the stand to connect him to the murder. Gouws insisted she spoke out only to "right the wrongs" and that there was no financial motive behind the rare interview.

"If she says something in the media, everyone jumps on her, and if she doesn't, everyone jumps on her anyway," he said.

In the interview, she detailed her affair with Panayiotou and the physical attraction that started the first day they met. They had kissed on their first date but only had sex later in the relationship, she said.

"In the beginning we saw each other when we could. It wasn't a daily thing. It wasn't only about sex — he is my best friend," Coutts told the magazine.

But they had to keep their secret and met at hotels. She said they often simply went for a drive after work to talk. People who spoke to the Sunday

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Times shortly after his arrest said they had often spotted the pair together at the shopping complex. And often they were openly affectionate.

It emerged in court that the romance between Panayiotou and Coutts started a year before he married Jayde, whom he had dated for years.

In his affidavit to court, investigating officer Lieutenant Rhyndard Swanepoel said Coutts was jealous of Jayde.

A Facebook page, Prayers For Jayde Panayiotou, was started and Coutts apparently endorsed it by clicking the "like" option.

In response, a user wrote: "I can't believe Chanelle Coutts liked this page." Another added: "She is common." Other comments on social media included that she was a "stupid little girl" and that she would be the next to die.

Panayiotou is accused of paying Luthando Sybil to hire Sirekzake Vumazokhe to kidnap and murder his wife. In the High Court in Grahamstown on July 20, the businessman will appeal the decision of the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court to deny him bail.

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FRIGHTENED: Chanelle Coutts is keeping a low profile



TATTERED NUPTIALS: A picture of Christopher and Jayde Panayiotou displayed at her funeral in April

## Moment of Reflection



Palestinian girls wait ahead of prayers on the third Friday of the holy month of Ramadan at the compound known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City. Israeli police said some 150 000 people attended the prayers at the compound. Israel barred Palestinian men under 50 and women under 30 from entering Jerusalem from the West Bank without a permit

Picture: REUTERS

## This cat knows his way around town

SHANAAZ EGGINGTON

LADUMA is no ordinary Capetonian, but he enjoys what the city has to offer as he wanders around Cape Town's prime real estate.

He is an adult caracal — or rookait, as South Africans prefer to call the predator — who has proved to be hugely beneficial to researchers as part of a project on the population size and health of wild animals in the Cape Peninsula.

He was caught and fitted with a collar that allows the researchers to track him as he moves from ecologically rich spaces around the peninsula to the city suburbs.

The leader of the Urban Caracal Project, University of Cape Town wildlife biologist Dr Laurel Serieys, said: "Data from the GPS-enabled collar shows that about a week before the March fires, he ventured into Constantia. Surprisingly, he stayed in this area even as massive fires broke out."

The fires hit Cape Town's southern suburbs more than two weeks early this year, destroying homes and disrupting plant and animal life. "It looks like he hunkered down to avoid the flames and heat, leaving the area to head back towards the back of Table Mountain a week after the fire," Serieys said.

When he was picked up in the wild, weighing 13kg, Laduma was considered a healthy adult male, although facial scarring suggested he had "been around the block".

"According to data collected, we



WE'RE ON YOUR TAIL: Jasper, left, photographed by Laurel Serieys of the Urban Caracal Project. The Rookait

was fitted with a radio collar so that Serieys, right, can track him



Picture (right): ESA ALEXANDER

have found that he regularly uses the entire Table Mountain, from the Orange Kloof area to the north, to Front Table and Signal Hill, east to the Newlands forest and Rhodes memorial area, and west to about Camps Bay," Serieys said.

"We were very lucky to capture and radio-collar this individual, and to be able to track how one caracal, clearly a survivor in the harsh Table Mountain environment, adapts and responds to an environment stressed by human activity."

The collar will remain on Laduma for six months, then automatically fall off. He was also ear-tagged so that remote cameras can non-invasively monitor his movements.

Another caracal of exceptional interest is Jasper, who was captured on April 30 in the Front Table area near the antelope paddocks. "The Cape Town caracals really seem to love open and grassy areas," Serieys said. "He is the youngest male we have captured and is likely to be between one and two years old. Thus far, he has demonstrated that he frequently crosses the M3."

"Despite their proximity to urban areas, caracals pose no danger to humans and their diet consists of small rodents like rats and mice, squirrels, genets, various bird species and on occasion, grysbok."

The research is a partnership between the Cape Leopard Trust, South

African National Parks, the City of Cape Town, private landowners, UCT and the University of California in Santa Cruz. See [urbanacaral.org](http://urbanacaral.org).

"Urbanisation is the biggest threat to biodiversity conservation worldwide. The Cape Peninsula is considered a biodiversity hot spot that has lost almost all of its large mammals such as lions, leopards, brown hyena and jackals," Serieys said.

"Caracals play a vital role in maintaining the balance in the ecosystem as they are the largest remaining predator in the area."

A key finding of the study so far is that caracals regularly cross the busy M3 linking Cape Town to the southern suburbs.

## Game farm gap year yours for R120 000

PREGA GOVENDER

WHILE many parents are desperate to get their children into a university after matric, a Cape Winelands farmer is hoping his sons will learn how to track wild animals and identify birds by their call.

The fruit and vegetable farmer from Ceres will be forking out R120 000 to enrol his son at South Africa's first formal bush school, near Upington in the Northern Cape, set to open next year.

The Academy for Environmental Leadership will offer post-matriculants wanting to take a gap year an opportunity to study conservation biology, ecotourism and personal leadership development.

The one-year programme — aimed at instilling an understanding of environmental issues — will be conducted by environmentalist Dave Pepler, the academic head of the school.

Besides the theoretical studies, students will learn to trap small mammals and mark them for population studies, as well as to identify trees and birds.

They will also learn to spot an animal from its tracks and a bird from its call, and to interpret the weather from clues in the veld.

Students will also be exposed to off-road driving skills.

The academy was born after advocate Fofe le Roux, a former chairman of private-school company Curro

Students will learn to trap small mammals as well as identify trees and bird calls

Holdings, went on a trip to Uganda with Pepler to view mountain gorillas in 2013.

When they returned to South Africa, the first blueprint was roughly sketched in a notebook.

The campus, which is situated at Uitzip, where the Kalahari meets the Gariep River, has a swimming pool, sports fields, gym, library, laboratory, social room and an organic garden.

The academy's chief executive, Gys Botha, confirmed that the Ceres farmer had paid a deposit to secure his son's place at the school next year.

The man's son had said that "joining the academy was a constructive thing to do rather than going overseas for a year or staying at home and lying around without doing anything," said Botha.

He said they were busy with the process of registering the school with the Department of Higher Education and "negotiating with Stellenbosch University to assist us with our programme on personal leadership."

Botha said graduates from the academy would be equipped with life skills and practical knowledge on environmental issues. He said potential jobs for students graduating from the academy included becoming environmental officers, research assistants, conservation officers, ecotourism planners and game farm managers.

The R120 000 annual fee includes board and lodging.

## Unplugged games bounty for the truly board

SHANAAZ EGGINGTON

FOR Simmy Peerutrin, it all started in the '80s, back when video games were becoming the rage and board games were on the wane... or so he thought.

He started collecting board games as an investment. "When something goes out of print, it becomes valuable. But to my

surprise, things went the opposite way. Despite the rise of electronic gaming, board games not only survived, but went on to soar in popularity," said Peerutrin, a prominent Cape Town architect.

Peerutrin prides himself on what he says is one of the world's most impressive collections of board games.

He houses some of his 550 games in a

huge floor-to-ceiling cupboard in his study. And he has played all of them.

"Some of them you can play in five minutes, others take five days," he said. "I love the games because it is a social activity that you can enjoy with other people."

Eugene Vermeulen of Skyvaste Games and Toys said there was a growing need for playing venues. "We see restaurants getting in on the action. There's a popular eatery near parliament "where you can play various games while you enjoy a drink or a meal".

Informal gaming clubs were springing up countrywide, said Vermeulen, driven by customers of gaming shops such as Battle Bunker, Panatious and Quantum.

Cape Town councillor JP Smith, who owns 67 games, is a passionate player. "Originally, we played Monopoly. Totopoly, Cluedo, Risk, Poleconomy and Movie Maker," he said. "Soon these got boring and we started combining them as an integrated all-in-one game that could last a whole weekend. Then I discovered war gaming and other complex simulation games."

He belongs to the board gaming club St Barnabas, named after the church hall where they play.

"Some games are quick and easy and take a few minutes, like King of Tokyo or Coup or even Bananagrams," he said.

"Others are heavyweight games that take a few hours, like Terra Mystica, Through the Ages, Agricola and Dominant Species."

Smith is trying to get the City of Cape Town to help establish board-gaming clubs to host contests — and perhaps an annual tournament.



ABOVE BOARD: Game collector Simmy Peerutrin

Picture: TREVOR SAMSON

## Product Recall Notice

The National Consumer Commission and Game stores herewith announce the recall of the Stramm 24 Litre Compressor Model ZA 2024 and the Stramm 50 Litre Compressor Model ZA 2050.

Quality inspections have revealed that these 2 products do not comply with the Pressure Equipment Regulations and thereby the National Standard (SANS 347), as a result of inadequate wall thickness and the absence of some compulsory product markings.

These defects may result in the compressor not performing as per design and this may pose a safety hazard to consumers. We therefore appeal to customers to return both compressors to the nearest Game store for a full refund. Proof of purchase is not required.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this incident and we would like to thank all consumers in advance for their understanding and co-operation.

Please call Game Customer Service on 0861 4263 2273 for any enquiries

| BARCODE       | PRICE    | DESCRIPTION                                |
|---------------|----------|--|
| 6001003111889 | R999.00  | Stramm 24 Litre Compressor Model ZA- 2024  |
| 6001003111896 | R1799.00 | Stramm 50 Litre Compressor Model ZA - 2050 |

Game Customer Service Centre  
Toll free number: 0861 4263 2273  
Email: [service@game.co.za](mailto:service@game.co.za)



### UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG COMMUNITY:

**PARTICIPATE IN THE RENAMING OF CERTAIN RESIDENCES AT UJ**

We invite you to suggest new names for these residences. Nomination forms are available on the UJ website, [www.uj.ac.za](http://www.uj.ac.za). The closing date for nominations is 17 JULY 2015.

The residences and day houses are currently named:

APB - Broadcast Court, Ikhyasa Lethu, Panorama, Goudstad, Majuba, Horison;

APK - Amper Daar, Benjemin, Kruiisig, Lebene, Skoonveld, Afsaen, Bastion, Dromedaris, Oppert, Student Town, Alomdani, Annrand, Kamiedood, Vorendag, Gloucester House;

DFC - Abailles, Dale Lace, Habitat, Robin Crest, Sivebeek, Sun Valley, Aurnum, Jeunesse;

SWC - Pishon of Soviet, New Residence (currently under construction).

\*The renaming will exclude Sophiatown and Hector Pieterston.

10 YEARS

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