1830

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## Jolie's Bravery Lauded In Mastectomy Decision

AP National Writer

NEW YORK — "I hope that other women can benefit from my experience," Angelina Jolie wrote in a powerful op-ed article Tuesday, explaining her decision to go public with having

her breasts removed to avoid cancer. But amid the accolades for the film star's courageous revelation, doctors and genetic counselors were careful to note that her medical situation — an inherited genetic mutation putting her at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer — was very specific, and that her course of action made sense for only a small category of women

Still, they hailed her bravery and said that she would surely help increase awareness and thus, perhaps, help save some lives.

"Having this conversation empowers us all," said Rebecca Nagy, a genetic counselor who works frequently with women who test positive for a defective version of the BRCA1 gene, as Jolie did. "It's wonderful what she's done."

In a stunning op-ed piece in the *New York Times*, Jolie, 37, began by speaking of her late mother, Marcheline Bertrand, who died of cancer at 56, before she was able to meet most of her grandchildren.

The actress revealed that beginning in February, she underwent three surgeries — which she succeeded in keeping secret from the public — in which her breasts were removed, and later replaced by implants.

"I wanted to write this to tell other women that the decision to have a mastectomy was not easy. But it is one I am very happy that I made," Jolie wrote. "My chances of developing breast cancer have dropped from 87 percent to under 5 percent. I can tell my children that they don't need to fear they will lose me to breast cancer."



Jolie

hinted that she might, at some point, have her ovaries removed, saying that she had "started with the breasts" because her risk of breast cancer was higher than that for ovarian cancer. She did not say how long ago she was diagnosed

with the faulty gene. While admiring Jolie's straightforwardness, cancer surgeons and others in the medical community were quick to point out that hereditary cases of breast cancer account for only about 5 percent to 7 percent of all cases diagnosed each year. And those connected to the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are an even smaller group.

And so, women shouldn't just run off and get tested for those genes, said Dr. Robert Shenk, medical director of the Breast Center at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center in

"My worry is that people will be inappropriately tested," said Shenk. "Awareness is great, but people shouldn't just run in off the street

Instead, he said, genetic counseling, including a close review of a patient's family history,

Nagy, the genetic counselor, who is also president of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, agreed.

"The clues are in the family history. Has there been cancer in multiple generations?" she said. "Are there clusters of cancers, like breast and ovarian, on the same side of the family? Has the cancer been diagnosed at an early age — under 50?"

If those factors exist, Nagy said, she conducts a thorough risk assessment with the patient. And if testing is warranted, there still needs to be some thought beforehand as to

what one might do with the information. 'It might not necessarily be surgery," Nagy said. "It might be much more frequent screenings. Surgery isn't right for everyone.'

That's the decision that Gabrielle Brett made — at least initially. Brett was only 23 when she tested positive for the BRCA1 gene. She had just met her future husband, James, a month earlier. She wanted to have a family, so she waited.

But at age 29, her husband said she shouldn't wait any longer. She should have her breasts removed before they had kids, even though she wouldn't be able to nurse them. She ultimately agreed. She had the surgery and then had two children. Now 35, she is two weeks from her due date with her third.

Brett woke up in the middle of the night Tuesday, read about Jolie's article on Facebook, and excitedly woke her husband. "It's amazing to hear that someone so famous went through the same thing," she said in a telephone interview. "It makes me realize we are all on the same journey."

Brett, who lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio, also figures that Jolie went through some tough moments, however serene she sounded in her article.

"I'm sure it wasn't quite so simple," she said. "There's sadness, anger, fear. I did a lot of crying alone in the car. But once I had the surgery, I felt a huge weight come off of me. I was no longer worrying whether there was cancer growing inside me somewhere. I felt nothing

And, she said, it was crucial that she was accompanied throughout her journey by "my own Brad Pitt" — her husband, who was there through every moment, as Jolie says partner Pitt was for her at the Pink Lotus Breast Center in southern California.

There is one part of the journey Brett has not tackled yet: removal of her ovaries. That,

she said, will come a bit later, when she is 40. Doctors stress that no one solution is right for everyone who tests positive. And even for those with a risky family history, it's not necessarily always right to test right away, they

"You don't necessarily want to test an 18year-old, sending her into a panic at such a young age," said Shenk. "You might consider that she's unlikely to get cancer in her 20s. You would maybe test her later."

Another potential downside to the testing: the cost, which can reach \$3,000, though it's usually covered by insurance and there are programs for women who can't afford it.

And some women might simply not be prepared for the results, said Dr. Eric Winer, head of the breast program at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. "Once you get the information, you have to be able to deal with it," he said.

If one does test positive, Winer stressed, it could be a reasonable solution to undergo intensive surveillance with MRI tests and mammograms. Or, some women choose to remove only their ovaries, which in pre-menopausal women seems to reduce the risk of breast cancer, too.

But in Jolie's case, Winer said, it's hard to argue with her choice of preventive surgery. tend to be a less-is-more doctor," said Winer. "But I do think the choice she made is a rational, reasonable one.'

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The following restrictions have been proposed for southeast South Dakota counties in 2013.

- Bon Homme: 100 any-deer tags (down 200 from last year) and no antlerless tags (down 500 from last year);
- Clay: 300 any-deer tags (the same number as last year) and no antlerless tags (down 400 from last year); • Hutchinson: 50 any-deer tags (down
- 350 from last year) and no antlerless tags (down 400 from last year) • Lincoln: 350 any-deer tags (up 50
- from last year) and no antlerless tags (down 100 from last year);
- Turner: 200 any-deer tags (down 100 from last year) and no antlerless tags (down 100 from last year)
- Union: 400 any-deer tags (up 50 from last year) and no antlerless tags (down 400 from last year);
  - Yankton: 300 any-deer tags (up 50

from last year) and no antlerless tags (down 450 from last year).

Sportsmen and landowners studied the proposals provided in hand-out sheets. They also filled out surveys, asking about last year's hunting experiences and their preferences and comments for this year.

Yankton resident Kevin DeJong — no relation to the GF&P biologist — said he grew up in the Springfield area. He continues to do most of his hunting west of Springfield, in Bon Homme County. He has seen firsthand the devastation of EHD and blue tongue.

"I would say, in the areas where I hunted, I saw a 50 to 70 percent mortality rate (because of disease)," he said.

According to his observations, De-Jong saw the diseases strike all range of

"I saw an even mix," he said. "I saw does and bucks, young to mature and in between."

Kevin DeJong hunts with his three sons, and they returned five tags because of the deer die-offs. He's sorry to see the huge deer losses, but he likes seeing the GF&P taking action for rebuilding the herd.

"I like their proposals about cutting back tags," he said. "I trust their judgment that this is a way to build up the (deer) population."

The GF&P is carefully watching weather patterns to see if conditions are right for return of the midge, which carries the EHD virus.

"The midge thrived last year because of the drying mud flats," Julie DeJong said. "You had the drought, which created the perfect conditions for the midge. And you had few drinking areas, so the deer gathered where the midge were in larger numbers."

EHD creates high fever, and stricken deer usually die within two or three days, she said. There is no vaccine for EHD and no way of spraying or otherwise effectively terminating midge, she

One ray of hope has been found in other regions of the nation, she said.

"(EHD) is common in the southeast part of the United States, and the deer apparently grow resistant to it," she said. "They may become sick, but they don't die anymore from it."

That provides some optimism for South Dakota, Julie DeJong said. "The (deer) who survived last year may have developed some resistance," she said.

Unfortunately, the National Drought Monitor has forecast continuation of the current drought, which could spur the return of the midge problem, she said.

"We either need continued drought to dry the mud flats, or we need areas to stay wet. It all becomes a vicious cycle," she said

When it comes to enlisting public support in the fight, Schelhaas said he appreciates the input at the open

"I didn't have a lot of expectations going into this, but we are getting a lot of good feedback," he said. "People are very interested in what we are doing, and they're glad that we're doing some-

At the meeting, the GF&P released a number of figures related to the deer

The reported 2012 deer losses for the southeast counties were Bon Homme 411, Clay 78, Hutchinson 238, Lincoln 1, Turner 23, Union 115 and Yankton 216.

In 2012, Yankton County was allocated 800 single-deer East River deer licenses. Of these, 154 licenses were returned and 115 were removed from the drawing for a total reduction of 269 tags (34 percent of the original number

The estimated deer harvest during 2012 from Yankton County was 516 deer. This was less than 50 percent of the total harvest from the last few years. East River deer hunter success was 37 percent in 2012, in comparison to 2011 (44 percent) and in 2010 (46 percent).

Restrictions have been proposed for archery, muzzleloader and youth harvest in southeastern South Dakota.

Kevin DeJong said he isn't applying for a rifle tag this year, but he will apply for an archery tag. He sees any GF&P restrictions as a necessary evil for rebuilding deer numbers.

"I see it as short-term pain," he said. "Hopefully, in 3 to 5 years, we will get the herd back."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

## Verdigre

From Page 1

to cover the rising costs of some materials and to build a reserve for future expenses.

The funds for the press box are funneled through the Verdigre School Foundation for accounting and tax purposes.

"We talked to some people at the funeral (last August) and saw if they wanted to do something. We wanted to do it right," Mastalir

"When I thought of this (press box), I knew it had to be something sports related. Mark just loved getting up there (in the crow's nest) and having fun."

The two-story structure will measure 36 feet long by 14 feet wide. The concession stand on the bottom floor will be larger than the current facility. A set of stairs — replacing the current ladder — will lead upstairs to the "Mark Pischel Memorial Press Box.

The press box will be heated, enclosed in glass and closer to the field for full visibility of the action. Besides the public address announcer, the upstairs will include room for film crews, coaches, scorekeepers, radio announcers and other media.

"It will be a step up from what it is now," Mastalir said.

The press box will include a VIP section, he said. The plan calls for the box suite to include seating for three to six people.

"For the first football game, the Pischel family will definitely get the box suite," Mastalir said. "After that, we will try to use it as a fundraiser. We raffle the opportunity for fans to watch the game from the VIP section.

Kim Pischel says her late husband was beloved far and wide, but she's still overwhelmed by the groundswell of financial support for

"It just blows you away, to see that many donations in that short of a time," she said.

Kim Pischel gained some insight of the love and respect for her husband in the hours following his accident. He was transferred to a Sioux City hospital, and word of the accident spread quickly.

A long line of Mark's co-workers from Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield came to the hospital, maintaining a vigil for their friend and colleague.

"When he was at the hospital in Sioux City that night, every time we turned around, there was a different corrections officer," Kim said.

On the day following Mark's death, more than 250 people gathered at the Pischel home to console the family and to share humorous stories long into the night. Kim and her children, Dustin

and Jacey, found the outpouring of support at the visitation and funeral even more amazing. At the visitation, the line of mourners lasted for five hours. At the funeral, St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church was overflowing.

Kim was even greeted by people who never met Mark. However, they fell in love with him through his humorous column, "The Roving Reporter," in the Verdigre weekly newspaper. Kim has compiled the columns, herself a regular column subject simply referred to as "the

Much like his newspaper column, Mark kept surprising people from the press box, Kim said.

'Mark would announce people walking by at the game. He would even announce pregnancies," she said. "He knew the referees working the game, and they just cringed because they never knew what Mark would say about them, in a goodnatured way. There were no limits.'

As part of his gametime entertainment, Mark invented quizzes and games for the crowd and offered little prizes from his pocket. He even challenged visiting radio

Under those conditions, re-

announcers to races down on the

Mastalir also talked about his brother-in-law's good nature.

"When I did the eulogy at the funeral, I said that Mark always had something to say," he said with a

laugh.
But Mark also took his responsibilities seriously, Kim said. When Missouri River flooding closed stretches of Nebraska Highway 12, Mark and other employees used various means to reach the Springfield prison every workday for

The dedication of the employees was captured in a *Press* & Dakotan article.

"Here was Mark, in a boat, commuting across the flooding, and he said those were some of the best times of his life." Kim said. "What they did to get to work was unbelievable. They could have complained about it, but they made it an adventure. There were mornings so foggy that they couldn't see, but they found their way.'

The optimistic approach reflected Mark's life, Kim said. "Nothing bothered Mark. He looked at life so differently. He just wasn't a downer," she said.

Mark also showed respect toward the inmates at work, and they developed a relationship with him, Mastalir said.

"Mark treated everyone like they were human beings with something to offer," Mastalir said. "Mark believed, if you respect people, they will give back many times over. A lot of (the inmates) made bad choices, but he never looked down on anybody. He didn't judge them."

As a sign of their respect, inmates created frames for both Kim and Dustin, placing a *Press* & Dakotan column about Mark in the middle of the frame as a tribute to the late corrections officer.

In addition, Mark's prison coworkers attended the latest press box fundraiser. One fundraiser became a double celebration, as

Dustin proposed to his girlfriend on the same day.

The tributes continue, as Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman has proclaimed July 1 — Mark's birthday — as "Mark Pischel Day" in the Cornhusker State. Meanwhile, Mastalir is pushing

forward to raise the final funds be-

fore starting the press box construction. Some labor and materials will be donated to the project. "We would like to get it built this summer and have it in place before the football season," he said. "We would do a dedication to him and

include the family in the ceremony at a home football game. Mastalir isn't surprised that Verdigre has responded to the project, noting the community raised funds to purchase a \$170,000 ambu-

'Verdigre always steps up, and Mark touched a lot of people," he

Kim Pischel believes the press box will reflect her late husband's passion. "Mark lived life the wav you should. He packed so much into every day," she said.

signs from Mark, such as his beloved eagles that flew above a friend's outdoor wedding at Niobrara State Park or a huge shooting star that fell over the first football game of last season.

Kim said she will be looking for new press box is dedicated for the first game.

'I think Mark will be looking down from heaven," she said.

To donate toward the press box, send funds to: Verdigre Public School Foundation, 201 South Third Street, Verdigre NE 68783. All donations must be designated for the "Press Box Fund."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

## **CROSSWORD** By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 40 Coop

1 Moolah group 5 Blockhead 41 Nasty president **DOWN** 

**11** Other 2 Early name for Myanmar calculator 3 Most 12Stately rational home

4 Insurance

grp.

5 Scorch

6 Player in

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13 Spring sign 14Drink cooler 15 Dessert

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Fredericksburg 20 Publicity act

vessel

26 Rides the

waves

30 Dessert

32 Dessert

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choice

**34**— culpa

**35**Bye, in

Baja

sound

attack

39 Painter

38 Prolonged

Matisse

36Nest

29Cry loudly

21 Filming site 22 Confiscate 24Stir-frying

Kim believes that she receives

a similar sign from above when the

Officials warn that the risk of flooding is roughly normal along the river, so flood-prone locations could

on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInland-

Voyage

A L P A C A R E A G A N CATANDMOUSE TOYED T E E N T A S K
G A L S M A D C A P
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ENDIVE Yesterday's answer 11 Ensemble 25 TV's 16Crafts-Conan 27 Drought man 18Walrus byproduct 28 Rugged feature

7 High-cholesterol 21 Lowly range 29 Hide away worker 8 Ellington 23 Swiss 30 Do some banking center 24 Surfer's

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NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-15 **CRYPTOQUOTE** 

NX TES BJZI HEEY UBESHBUC DNKK CBNOI ESU EX

XJLI KNFI CSOMIJQC

JOY TES DNKK JKDJTC KEEF

KEZIKT. — AEJKY YJBK Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO UNLOCK THE GOLDEN DOOR OF FREEDOM. — GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

**Corps** From Page 1

the summer is dry.

determined based on the volume of water in the reservoir system on

The navigation season could be shortened by as much as 15 days if

leases at Gavins Point Dam could be reduced to 9,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Officials with the City of Yankton have expressed concern that the community's surface water intake would be inoperable if flows were that low. The intake was raised last year because a sandbar developed over it. In addition, the river bottom was scoured out by the 2011 flood. City officials haven't releases of 9,000 cfs. According to Joel Knofczynski, a

hydraulic engineer for the Corps, releases at Gavins Point Dam averaged 17,800 cfs in April and are currently at 18,000 cfs.

"Releases are expected to remain near that rate for about another week and then increase to 24,000 cfs," Knofczynski said. "Releases will be increased to prevent the endangered least tern and the threatened

later this summer when higher releases are needed to provide navigation flows. The nesting season runs from May to late August.

still encounter problems. You can follow Nathan Johnson

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piping plover from nesting on low decided how they will respond to sandbars that would be flooded