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The Portland Observer

Katz, with cancer, urges women to get breast exams

• Portland's mayor says her experience is a victory and plans to slow her schedule only a little during radiation treatments

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Portland Mayor Vera Katz announced Monday that she has been diagnosed with breast cancer and appears to have beaten it. She said her prognosis is a victory for routine mammography screenings and early detection. The 66-year-old mayor, who still plans to run for a third term and maintain a busy schedule, had a lumpectomy March 16 to remove cancerous tissue. She will undergo six weeks of radiation therapy beginning in two or three weeks. But Katz and her doctor, Nathalie Johnson, said at a news conference Monday that they think the cancer is gone, more than a year after doctors first found a lump in the mayor's breast as part of a routine mammography screening. The radiation treatment is designed

to kill any undetected remnant and to prevent a recurrence, Katz and Johnson said. "Today, after all these months, I can comfortably stand before you and say I had cancer, and now I can go on with my life," Katz said. "I expect her to be around for years from now and doing well," Johnson said with a smile. The mayor and her doctor said they're hoping that Katz's public announcement will spur other women to schedule mammograms and conduct breast self-exams. "She's really a testament to the fact that early detection and screening mammograms can make a world of difference in breast cancer," Johnson said. "We were able to find this, and find it very early." Johnson first found a small lump in Katz's breast a year ago as part of a routine mammography screening. Six

months later, the lump had grown, and Johnson scheduled a surgical biopsy for the end of February. During that biopsy, Johnson removed the lump and some nearby tissue that she said looked suspicious to her. The lump turned out to be harmless,

but tests indicated cancer in the nearby tissue. On March 16, Johnson removed those cells and enough of the surrounding cells to give Katz a clear prognosis. The cancer in the surrounding cells probably was not related to the lump.

But Johnson said going after the lump led her to find the cancerous cells. "We got lucky," Johnson said. Cancer confined Fortunately for Katz, the cancer was confined to milk ducts and had not spread into surrounding fatty tissue. That type of breast cancer — ductal carcinoma in situ — is the most common form of noninvasive breast cancer. Nearly 100 percent of women diagnosed in this early stage of breast cancer can be cured, according to the American Cancer Society. Depending on how aggressive it is, it can take ductal carcinoma in situ anywhere from six months to three or four years to break through duct membranes and start spreading throughout the body. Johnson said the cancer probably would have been found by Katz's next mammogram, the most reliable detection method because Katz's type of cancer usually is too small for a physician or a self-exam to find. With more women getting mammograms each year, diagnosis of ductal carcinoma in situ is becoming much more common, experts say.

Katz says she is a very private person, and that description has been borne out in her reluctance to talk about biographical details, from her family's flight from the Nazis when she was a child to her life as a single woman in Northwest Portland. The two-term mayor kept the details of her treatment from most of her staff until a month ago, when tests indicated cancer. She asked her staff to keep her condition secret, and no one else at City Hall appears to have known about her condition beforehand. She informed council members just before the news conference. Katz's son, Jesse, a newspaper reporter in Los Angeles, encouraged her to make her condition public for the educational value to women. "He said, 'You have an obligation,' and I concurred with that," Katz said. The decision by Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf, a breast cancer survivor, to go public helped, too, Katz said. Oberndorf is drawing on her experience to push for expanded



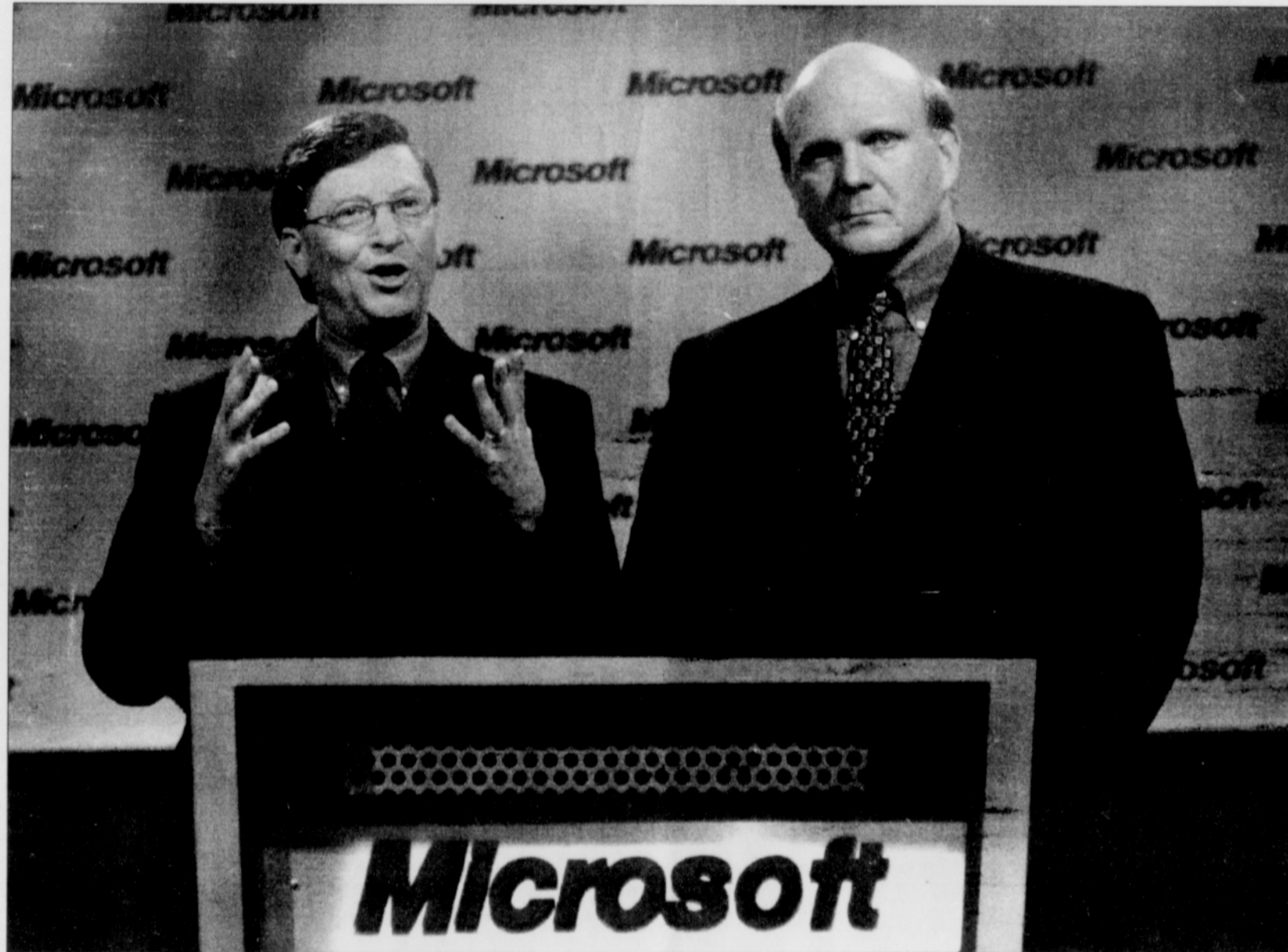
"After all these months, I can comfortably stand before you and say I had cancer, and now I can go on with my life," Mayor Vera Katz said.

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Software giant's verdict creates mixed reactions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A federal judge's harsh antitrust verdict against Microsoft Corp. is almost certain to unleash a costly wave of consumer lawsuits against the software maker. Legal experts say the threat could deal Microsoft a lasting legal blow even if the company ultimately prevails against the U.S. government. Microsoft already faces 120 private federal and state lawsuits brought since last November, when U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson found Microsoft repeatedly engaged in anticompetitive behavior by taking advantage of its monopoly power in computer operating software. But Monday's verdict by Judge Jackson provides fresh legal ammunition for lawyers pursuing these private cases on behalf of computer buyers who claim Microsoft exploited its software monopoly to overcharge for the Windows operating system. The decision essentially affirms last November's strongly worded findings, placing them into the permanent legal record. It brands Microsoft a lawbreaker that violated the Sherman Antitrust Act and abused its operating system dominance to monopolize the software market. Legal experts said that frees private lawyers from a difficult burden of proof, giving them more leeway to pursue potentially billions of dollars in damages in both federal and state cases. Importantly, the judge found that Microsoft could be liable under state



Microsoft chairman Bill Gates, left, and president and CEO Steve Ballmer address members of the media at a news conference Monday, April 3, 2000 in Redmond, Wash. Microsoft said that it plans to appeal a ruling earlier Monday by U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson. Photo by Associated Press

Justice Department official who negotiated with Microsoft in a related 1994 case and now works for the Brookings Institute think tank. "All they will say is, 'Look, the court has already found that Microsoft violated the law,'" he said. Microsoft officials suggested that any immediate impact from the verdict will be minimal, saying they will forcefully pursue an appeal and that the company will continue to aggressively develop and sell new software technologies. "It's important for people to understand that today's court ruling is just one step in a legal process that could last several years," Microsoft lead counsel Bill Neukom said in a statement. "The ruling does not change the challenges and opportunities before us," Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer told reporters. "I intend to talk to many of key customers ... to assure them" the ruling won't slow Microsoft's development and sale of new products. Indeed, private lawyers, who are seeking to consolidate the federal cases as they seek class-action status, still face a high hurdle proving any Microsoft overcharges to the vast majority of consumers. Most people buy the Windows operating system indirectly as part of a software bundle that comes with a new computer. It's easier to calculate overcharges for people who bought software upgrades. Judge Jackson, in his initial finding, cites Microsoft's own study to show that its monopoly power gave it substantial discretion to raise

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anticompetition laws, easing the way for plaintiffs in state suits to broadly

apply findings from the U.S. antitrust case.

"This is a manna from heaven for the private plaintiffs because it basically

should eliminate a lot of their need for proof," said Robert Litan, a former

Weather

Through the weekend

Today	Mostly cloudy	53°F/11°C	43°F/5°C	Friday	Mostly cloudy	70°F/20°C	45°F/5°C
Thursday	Mostly cloudy	59°F/14°C	41°F/4°C	Saturday	Scattered Showers	72°F/21°C	45°F/5°C
				Sunday	Showers	69°F/19°C	45°F/5°C

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This Week in History

On April 7, 1712 Nine whites were killed in a slave revolt in New York City. Planned by 27 slaves, the rebellion was begun by setting fire to an outhouse; as whites came to put the fire out, there were shot. The state militia was called out to capture the rebels and the city of New York responded to the event by strengthening its slave codes. 21 Blacks were executed as participants, and 6 alleged committed suicide.
 On April 9, 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.