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Sources Say: Gasp! Hales talks to 'burbs

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Charlie Hales will become the first Portland mayor in a long time to address the monthly breakfast meeting of the Westside Economic Alliance on Jan. 24. The public-private membership group is primarily made of governments and business in Washington and western Clackamas counties. Many of them have traditionally been wary of Portland's dominance of regional issues, something Hales wants to overcome.

"The mayor of Portland ought to have a regional role that's constructive, built on good relationships," Hales recently told the Portland Tribune. "If you don't have good relationships, when the tough issues come up, you don't have anything to draw on except the tough politics of the moment."

Hales also said he met Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey and Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle on the campaign trail, and recently spoke with Tualatin Mayor Lou Ogden. Hales plans to attend the informal monthly meeting of regional mayors that Ogden started last year — something former Mayor Sam Adams did not do.

And as far as Portland goes, Hales plans to invite City Council members and their spouses to his house to have dinner with him and his wife, Nancy. The invitations are for one council member at a time, however, to avoid a quorum, which could open the dinners to media coverage.

A scheme to buy more clothes?

Charlie and Nancy Hales were trotting off to Washington, D.C., during the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors as well as a flurry of gala events: the British Ambassador's presidential inauguration reception, the USCM mayors' only event, the Oregon State Society inauguration event, and the inauguration swearing-in ceremony on Monday.

A la Michelle Obama, Nancy Hales isn't shy about recycling her favorite dresses. She'll sport her blue election night Pendleton dress again, as well as a collection of local brands including outerwear by Columbia Sportswear, an Elizabeth Rohloff black cloche hat, a Pendleton scarf, two gowns by Lena Medoyeff, and a combination of jewelry by David Margulis, Moss earrings by local artist Diana Schreiber, and a couple of vintage pieces of her grandmother's.

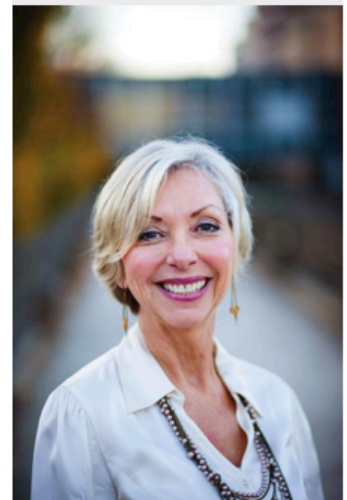
Mayor Hales says he's glad Nancy has fallen head over heels into her First Lady role: "Maybe this whole thing is just an elaborate scheme to buy more clothes," he joked to Sources say this week. "It's working."

Don't touch that authority please

The most controversial priorities in Portland's agenda for the 2013 Legislature are likely to draw the most media attention. They include support for allowing voters to increase property taxes above the current limits and several gun control measures, including banning so called assault weapons.

But buried in the agenda reviewed the City Council on Wednesday are several priorities that suggest Portland officials are expecting efforts to restrict their authority in policy and financial fields. Under the heading Preemptions of Local Government Authority, the agenda identifies several issues where attacks are expected. They include the city's authority to fluoridate its water, regulate taxis, impose taxes on wireless companies and other businesses, and encourage green building practices through the local building codes.

Perhaps significantly, the also opposes restrictions on two it is not doing. They are establishing a city vehicle registration fee and taxing alcohol and tobacco products



by: TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER ONSTOTT - Nancy Hales has a lot of new clothes for her trip to Washington, D.C., and the presidential inauguration.