

GRIFFEY SHINES, BUT M'S PREVAIL

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Therapy eases tinnitus torment

Ringing in ears
NW LIFE > C1



iPhone's impact felt — and it's not even out yet

BUSINESS > E1

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2007

The Seattle Times

METRO EDITION

PARTLY SUNNY
with showers. High 69,
low 51. > LOCAL B8

50¢ King, Pierce, Snohomish, Island, Kitsap
and Thurston counties | **75¢** elsewhere



INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1896 | seattletimes.com

People often report seeing, hearing or just feeling odd things around Pike Place Market — and not only in the building that once was a mortuary.

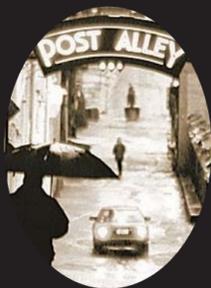
GHOST STORIES



Karen McAleese reacts with momentary fright after hearing footsteps overhead at 1921 First Ave. Her family, which owns Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub, plans to open a different eatery upstairs in the former mortuary site. The footsteps? A building contractor working upstairs.

PIKE PLACE AT 100

My Market: "The Ghosts"



Have you seen a ghost at the Market? Tell us your ghost story: seattletimes.com/pikeplacemarket

STORY BY STUART ESKENAZI • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN LOK
Seattle Times staff

You are never alone at Pike Place Market. Even when you are by yourself.

Karen McAleese swears to it. On All Saints' Day a couple of years ago, she is certain she saw someone — something? — amble out of the kitchen at Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub, her family's place.

"He was a tall man who looked like he was part black, with a suit jacket on," McAleese says in her thick Irish accent. "He had very thin hands. He walked to the end of the bar and just kind of faded." It scared the bejeebers out of her.

Nina Menon doubts no more. The co-owner of Bead Zone in the Market's DownUnder was in her shop having a rather agitated phone conversation when strands of red beads hanging on a wall hook came crashing to the floor.

"I was a healthy skeptic, but seeing was believing," Menon says. "There was no way these beads could have just slid off."

When people say Pike Place Market is full of spirit, they have no earthly idea how true that may be.

We mere mortals may not be the only ones lurking in the Market's nooks and crannies.

Take Frank, a tall and elderly ghost who supposedly introduces himself by name outside the bathrooms at Alibi Room, a club off Post Alley.

Or that time an overwhelming scent of old-lady perfume filled the back office of the Market Theatre, sending an employee — alone inside — fleeing out the front door.

Believe yet? No?

Then gather 'round and settle in for a Pike Place Market ghost story — the scariest, creepiest and most bloodcurdlingest of them all.

Mwahahaha!

We like to call it:

PHANTOMS OF THE MORTUARY

Please see > MARKET, A6



Come inside to meet some of the Market ghosts > A6

Americans set record with gifts to charity

NEARLY \$300 BILLION IN 2006

Donations from individuals are three-quarters of total

BY VINNEE TONG
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Americans gave nearly \$300 billion to charitable causes last year, setting a record and besting the 2005 total that had been boosted by a surge in aid to victims of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma and the Asian tsunami.

Donors contributed an estimated \$295.02 billion in 2006. That's up from \$283.05 billion in 2005, according to an annual report released today by the Giving USA Foundation at Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy. When adjusted for inflation, the increase amounts to 1 percent.

"What people find especially interesting about this, and it's true year after year — that such a high percentage comes from individual donors," Giving USA Chairman Richard Jolly said.

Contributions from individuals made up 75.6 percent of the total. With bequests, that rises to 83.3 percent.

Nearly a third of the money — \$96.82 billion — goes to religious organizations. The second-largest slice, \$40.98 billion or 13.9 percent, goes to education, including gifts to colleges, universities and libraries.

About 65 percent of households with incomes less than \$100,000 give to charity, the report showed.

"It tells you something about American culture that is unlike any other country," said Claire Gaudiani, a professor at New York University. Please see > CHARITY, A7



DEAN RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Seattle's Pride Parade celebrated the city's gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual community. > LOCAL B1

Newsline

A quick look at today's news. For updates: seattletimes.com

Residents support redistributing funds to improve walking and biking conditions. > Local B2

Wildfire: Some 165 homes were destroyed and hundreds were threatened by a fire near South Lake Tahoe, Calif. > A4

Lebanon: A car bomb killed 6 U.N. peacekeepers, the first such attack since the end of last summer's Israel-Hezbollah conflict. > A5

Study: Upgrading its safety plan, the DOT found, among several surprises, that nearly half of Washington

College World Series: Oregon State beat North Carolina to become the first back-to-back champion in a decade. > Sports D1

TV: Viewers' monthly cable bills will likely rise a few dollars when a law requiring a special security card in new set-top boxes takes effect July 1. > Business E1

Opinion: Contenders for Redmond mayor have some unique shoes to fill, writes Kate Riley. > B6

Study paints picture of rampant "superbug"

DRUG-RESISTANT STAPH IN HEALTH FACILITIES

It may be much more prevalent than was thought

BY JUDITH GRAHAM
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — As many as 1.2 million hospital patients are infected with dangerous, drug-resistant staph infections each year, almost 10 times more than previous estimates, based on findings from a major new study.

And 48,000 to 119,000 hospital patients a year may be dying from methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, infections — far

more than previously thought, the study's data suggest.

The Chicago Tribune obtained the results from the Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology, which is releasing the report publicly today. The author is Dr. William Jarvis, former acting director of the hospital-infections program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The findings come amid mounting public concern over the spread

of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in health-care facilities and community settings. Medical experts consider the rise of so-called "superbugs" such as MRSA, a leading cause of deadly blood infections and pneumonias, one of the most alarming public-health threats in the nation.

"We're hoping this survey is a wakeup call to health-care workers across America," said Kathy Warye, the association's executive officer.

The new study is the largest, most comprehensive survey to date of MRSA in health-care facilities. It's based on surveys sent last year to 10,000 infection-control practitioners, including doctors and nurses, in

hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities. Because the resulting numbers are dependent on the accuracy of what those practitioners reported, they're only an estimate.

Health-care professionals were asked to select one day between Oct. 1 and Nov. 10, 2005, and report all known MRSA cases in their institutions on that date. More than 1,200 hospitals and 100 nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities responded, supplying data about patients with MRSA infections and patients colonized with the bacteria.

People colonized with MRSA typi- Please see > STAPH, A7

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