



Metro/Religion

Y2K Spring Cleanup



Martin Cleaning Service

Carpet cleaning includes 1 Hall Free
Pre-Spray Traffic Area at no extra cost * Stairs \$1.50 Ea.

Upholstery Cleaning

- Sofa under 6 ft. \$59.95 * Ottoman \$20
- Sofa over 6 ft. 69.95 * Dining Chair \$20
- Love seat \$49.95 * Chair \$24.95
- Recliner \$39.95 * Sectional \$69.95

Additional Services

- Auto * Boat
- R.V. Cleaning * Deodorizing
- Pet Odor Treatment
- Dirt Resistant (Teflon) Protection
- Spot Removal & Red Stain Removal

Carpet Cleaning

2 Areas Or More 2 Room Min. Includes 1 Hall Free Wash Heavyly Soiled Carpet Areas	\$12⁹⁵ Each Area
	\$22⁹⁵ Each Area

Upholstery

Sofa & Loveseat Or Chair	\$89⁹⁵
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Room Special

Carpet & Upholstery Any 3 Areas Hallway Plus Sofa, Loveseat and/or Chair Cleaned	\$119⁹⁵
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Leap Day babies come to terms with missing birthdays

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caitlin Smith isn't quite sure how old she is. Her parents tell Caitlin that she is 4, but the calendar has skipped her Leap Day birthday each year since she was born. "Sometimes she'll hold up one finger because a lot of people say this will be her very first birthday," said the Bel Air girl's mother, Judy Smith. About 200,000 Americans were born on Leap Day, and many remember a time when they were unhappy about their quadrennial birthdays. "You have to realize, of course, that these poor people only have a birthday once every four years," said Barbara Sutton-Smith, author of "The Leap Year Book."

"Especially when you're a tot, that's very hard to understand," she said. Feb. 29 comes along every four years to compensate for the fact that one year is slightly longer than 365 days. It was created in 46 B.C. during the reign of Julius Caesar.

Pope Gregory XIII adjusted the calendar in 1582 to strike leap years from three of every four century years, making this Feb. 29 the first Leap Day to land on a century year in 400 years.

"It's an extremely important day," said Sutton-Smith, who lives north of Toronto, Ontario. "If we didn't have a Leap Day, everything would be out of whack."

But that can be difficult to explain to a child. Raenell Dawn, co-founder of the Honor Society of Leap Day Babies, was the oldest of three girls, all with February birthdays. Her mother wrote their birthdays on the calendar — the youngest on Feb. 6, the middle daughter on Feb. 25 and Dawn in the empty box next to Feb. 28.

Dawn now calls her predicament "Empty Box Syndrome." "The whole line — 'Your birthday isn't on the calendar because you're special' — that only lasts so long," Dawn said.

But there are some benefits. A 64-year-old born on Leap Day can throw himself a Sweet 16 birthday party. And the Motor Vehicle Administration gives them until March 1 to renew their driver's licenses.

And while Caitlin remains confused about the technical aspects of Leap Day, the 4-year-old has mastered one concept: One birthday every four years means four times as many presents.

This year, the little girl talked her parents into buying her a lop rabbit — appropriately named "Rabbit" — for her first real birthday.

"This will of course not happen every leap year," her mother said. "Otherwise we'll be coming out of the woodwork with pets every four years."

Travel-Path of Jesus believed found

ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the midst of green hills and springs in the Jordan Valley, archaeologists have unearthed what they say is the real site of the baptism of Jesus Christ, instead of the traditional spot on the Israeli-controlled western shore of the Jordan River.

"This is where Jesus was baptized," insisted Tourism Minister Aqel Biltaji during a recent visit to the site. "This is where John the Baptist lived. This is where the first Christian community on earth emerged."

Biltaji and a team of Jordanian archaeologists are convinced the site is the biblical "Bethany beyond the Jordan" recorded in the *Gospel of John*. Their claim has sparked a friendly cross-border dispute on whether Jesus was baptized on the eastern or western shore of the river. Israel has long held that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist at Qasir al-Yahud, a West Bank area just north of the Dead Sea that is still under Israeli military control.

Pope John Paul II is expected to visit the Jordanian site during an upcoming weeklong tour of holy places in Jordan, Israel and the West Bank scheduled to start March 20. Jordanian officials interpret the Pope's plans as implicit confirmation that their site is where Jesus was baptized, but the Vatican has not taken a position on either side's claim. The Vatican has added Bethany to a list of sites that Christian pilgrims could visit to celebrate the new millennium, but that declaration that fell short of any outright acknowledgment that the area is the baptism site.

Vassilios Tzaferis, head of the excavations department in the Israel

Antiquities Authority, says there is no proof for either claim.

"Archaeologically speaking, we don't have any real evidence," he says. "Pilgrims are connected by faith, religion and dogmas. You either believe it or you don't."

Roman Catholic Monsignor Raouf Najjar of Amman believes Jordan's version.

"Nobody can contest that the real site of baptism is across the Jordan River on the eastern side," says Najjar, an assistant to Jerusalem Bishop Michel Sabbah.

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities sponsored celebrations at the site in early January to mark the millennium and the Eastern Christmas. More than 20,000 Jordanians representing the country's 10 Christian sects sang Christmas carols and beat drums in Wadi al-Kharrar on Jan. 7.

The government also issued coins and Christmas cards depicting John pouring water over the head of a kneeling Christ with the maxim: "Jordan the Land of Baptism." Souvenir shops are selling for two dinars (\$3) tiny bottles said to contain "holy water" from the Jordan River. Jordan is also building a guest house and paving roads to the site, a development costing an estimated \$7 million. Much of the money came from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Biltaji, the tourism minister, says Jordan is seeking to win its share of millennium tourism. He expects a 20 percent increase in tourists this year over the estimated 1.2 million a year. But that optimism could be dampened by the recent arrest in Jordan of 14 Muslim militants suspected of planning terrorist attacks on the baptism and other tourist sites.

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Greater Faith Christian Center welcomes the anointed ministry of TBN personality Evangelist Patricia Hyche, to their 9th Annual Women of Excellence Conference. March 9th through the 12th at Greater Faith Christian Center C.O.G.I.C. located at 3839 NE Killingsworth St. With services beginning at 7 pm, and Sunday Service at 7 p.m. Host Pastor: Rev. H. Bernard Ings, Jr. Director of Women's Ministries at G.F.C.C.: Mrs. Regina Ings. Evangelist Hyche will be bringing the message on "Preparing a People for the End Time Harvest" guaranteed to stir up our pure minds. Recognized as one with a Prophetic calling, she brings encouragement and the Presence of the Lord into the lives of women and men of God.

Make-A-Wish penny drive in final week

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There's still time to raise money for the Make-A-Million for Make-A-Wish Penny Drive. The 5th Annual campaign runs through Friday, March 3. Businesses and Schools can participate by bringing in their change, checks or bills to any U.S. Bank branch.

Over 80 schools and nearly 50 businesses are already participating. The numbers grow by the day. Your pennies help make wishes come true. Dig into your pockets, purse, and drawer corners for coins and put them to work helping the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oregon to grant wishes for some very special children struggling with life-threatening illnesses.

Currently over 55 children across Oregon and Clark County, Washington have their wishes in process. The Foundation grants wishes to children between the ages of 2 1/2 and 18 who are battling life-threatening illnesses. Trips to Disney theme parks and computers are the most popular wishes. With the help of many, the Foundation expects to grant 120 children their wishes this year.

A pound of pennies is worth \$1.61. One thousand pennies equals \$100. It doesn't take long for pennies to grow into a full wish. Each wish costs an average of \$5,000. 80 children received their wish last year.

So put out your containers, challenge other businesses in your community and encourage kids to help kids in their school. For more information, contact Make-A-Wish at 1-800-934-9474.



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