

DECEMBER 2020

OPENING



STATEMENTS

WWW.LAWYERSREADYTOFIGHT.COM

317-934-9725 | INFO@RDLAWOFFICE.COM

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN RAZUMICH

MAKE EVERY DAY A CELEBRATION WITH THESE ODD HOLIDAYS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Eat a Red Apple Day | 17. National Maple Syrup Day |
| 2. National Fritters Day | 18. Bake Cookies Day |
| 3. National Roof over Your Head Day | 19. Look for an Evergreen Day |
| 4. Wear Brown Shoes Day | 20. Go Caroling Day |
| 5. Bathtub Party Day | 21. Winter Solstice |
| 6. St. Nicholas Day | 22. National Date Nut Bread Day |
| 7. Pearl Harbor Day | 23. Festivus |
| 8. National Brownie Day | 24. Christmas Eve |
| 9. National Pastry Day | 25. Christmas Day |
| 10. Nobel Prize Day | 26. National Fruitcake Day |
| 11. National Noodle Ring Day | 27. Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day |
| 12. Poinsettia Day | 28. Card Playing Day |
| 13. International Children's Day | 29. Pepper Pot Day |
| 14. Roast Chestnuts Day | 30. Bacon Day |
| 15. Bill of Rights Day | 31. New Year's Eve |
| 16. National Chocolate Covered Anything Day | |



-JOHN RAZUMICH



WHAT MAKES A CHRISTMAS MOVIE A CHRISTMAS MOVIE? Do You Think 'Die Hard' or 'Iron Man 3' Are Christmas Movies?

It's a movie that takes place on Christmas Eve at a Christmas party. It's about a man realizing the importance of reconnecting with his loved ones and going to extreme lengths to do so. It also features popular Christmas songs such as "Winter Wonderland," "Let It Snow!" and "Jingle Bells" throughout its run time. I am, of course, talking about the 1988 action-adventure movie, "Die Hard."

I had you going there for a second, didn't I? Depending on who you talk to, "Die Hard" is either one of their favorite Christmas movies or simply a fun action movie that has no place in the upper echelon of esteemed Christmas classics like "It's a Wonderful Life," "A Christmas Story," or even "Elf." And while I could write an entire article about why "Die Hard" is or isn't a Christmas movie, I think this debate illuminates a much larger question: What makes a Christmas movie a Christmas movie?

To prove that this debate is still alive and well — and that it stretches far beyond the adventures of John McClane mowing down terrorists in Nakatomi Plaza — I want to throw out another movie contentiously trying to join the holiday film ranks: "Iron Man 3." You might laugh, but first consider that last year, Marvel's official Twitter account confirmed that the third installment of the "Iron Man" trilogy was, in fact, a Christmas movie. And who are we to disagree?

Interestingly enough, it does actually abide by much of the same criteria that supporters of "Die Hard" use to make their Christmas movie claim: It takes place around the holiday season, and the final battle happens on Christmas Eve. It features Christmas songs, and there is a snarky reference to the movie "A Christmas Story," made by king of quips Tony Stark. Stark even covertly dispatches terrorists at one point in the film,

Continued on Page 2 ...

and while this detail doesn't make "Iron Man 3" more of a Christmas film, it's still an interesting parallel between it and "Die Hard."

Convinced as you might be about the status of these action-adventure movies as holiday films, they do have a few strikes against them. For starters, both of these films were actually summer blockbusters. Neither film was released during the Christmas season. But, if you think that disqualifies them, keep in mind that "Miracle on 34th Street" was also released during the summer, and I don't think anyone is rushing to disqualify that movie — whose main character is Santa Claus — just because it wasn't released in December.

Another possible reason why "Die Hard" and "Iron Man 3" might not be categorized as Christmas movies is that neither of their plots hinge on the holidays. You could take the holiday out of these movies without affecting any of the crucial plot elements. Christmas in these movies is like extra tinsel on a tree — it might make the final product a little more flashy, but it's still just a superficial decoration.

However, not even this argument is rock solid. Take a look at the Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life." Only a fraction of the film actually takes place on Christmas Eve, but the film's themes of regret and thankfulness, much like a well-rooted pine tree, are evergreen. If you don't believe me, I encourage you to look at some of the homages to this holiday classic that don't have any Christmas elements, such as "13 Going On 30," Adam Sandler's "Click," and even "Shrek 4."



At this point, no matter which side of the Christmas movie debate you're on, you might be throwing your hands up in the air. However, I don't want to leave you without an answer to my original question, so let me just say this: A Christmas movie is whatever movie gets you in the Christmas spirit, which varies from person to person. So, whether that means watching Scott Calvin gripe about sliding down chimneys in "The Santa Clause" or watching John McClane gripe about sliding through air ducts, if it signals the start of the Christmas season and makes you feel festive, go ahead and throw it on the TV.

A DRIVER'S GUIDE TO SAFE HOLIDAY TRAVELS

WINTER ROAD TRIP ESSENTIALS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

On Sept. 24, 2019, more than 2.5 million people passed through TSA checkpoints at airports across America. On the same date this year, those terminals saw just 826,316 travelers — a nearly 70% drop. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Americans have been thinking twice about air travel, and this holiday, millions of would-be flyers will set out on road trips instead.

Road tripping is a great way to avoid contact with a lot of people, but it can also be dangerous, especially in winter weather. Fortunately, you can take several steps to keep your family safe. Getting your car



checked before you go, for example, can save you a lot of hassle on the road, as can investing in a set of snow tires. It's also smart to take precautions such as letting a friend or family member know your route, predicted arrival time, and where you plan to stop for gas along the way.

Apart from that, one of the best things you can do is pack an emergency kit. AAA sells premade kits through outlets like Amazon, and you can find a basic kit with things like jumper cables, ponchos, rope, batteries, pliers, zip ties, and a first-aid kit at pretty much any Walmart or sporting goods store. You could even save a life by adding a few more essentials to your kit, like a blanket, snacks, and an extra cellphone charger.

At this point, you're almost a safety black belt. But to take your kit to the next level for winter driving, there are three more little-known items you should stash in your trunk: a shovel, a bag of sand or cat litter, and an extra bottle of windshield wiper fluid. If you get stuck in a snowbank, the shovel will help you dig your way out without risking frostbitten fingers. The sand or cat litter will boost your traction if you sprinkle it around your wheels in an icy spot, and the extra wiper fluid will make all the difference if you run out during a snowstorm.

Once you're prepared, crank up the Christmas carols and get driving!

MEET KISMET, A DENTIST'S TOOTHLESS THERAPY DOG

Therapy pets can have a powerful impact on dental patients, especially if those patients have anxiety.

"The studies are very clear: People who sit and pet animals have lower blood pressure, and that's what it's all about," Dr. Cameron Garrett told TODAY when the world found out about Kismet. Garrett's dental practice employs the adorable 13-year-old Chihuahua rescue as a therapy animal that patients can hold and pet while they get dental work done.

Kismet's life has not been easy. The Muttville Senior Dog Rescue has invested thousands of dollars into Kismet's health — they diagnosed her with heart disease, removed a cancerous tumor, treated a hernia, and removed all of her



teeth due to periodontal disease. Yet, Kismet remains a very sweet dog. She never barks and loves back scratches and being held.

It's especially amazing that the toothless Kismet found such a perfect new home with dental professionals! This past July, Cameron Garrett and his wife, Debra Garrett (a hygienist), adopted Kismet into their home as well as their dental practice. The serene dog has provided a special experience for patients who come for exams, cleanings, and even root canals.

Of course, some patients are scared of dogs. In those cases, Kismet relaxes behind a closed gate. But over 98% of patients happily take Kismet on their laps while they undergo their dental procedure.

Cameron Garrett told CNN, "Quite honestly, as a dentist, I'm as much a psychiatrist or psychologist as anything else. Kismet has allowed us to have another tool in our toolbox." They can even use the toothless pup's story to teach patients about the effects of periodontal disease.

Getting love from patients also helps Kismet. "She just wants to be with us," Debra Garrett explained. The new owners suspect that she was abused in the past and is still recovering from that trauma. "When she is on a patient's lap, she's providing them comfort, but she's also getting comfort. It's hard for me to describe how nice it is for me to be looking at her while I'm working. It's just a win-win all the way around."

Our hearts are officially melted. It's only fitting for a pet hero to have heroic owners, too!

TAKE A BREAK!

		6	2	3			5	
	3		9	8				2
				4			1	
4								
8						1		6
							7	
		8	6					9
1			5					
9		7						



FESTIVE APPLE CIDER

Inspired by BoulderLocavore.com

If you're cutting back on calories, skip the eggnog and buttered rum this year and fill up your mug with this delicious mulled cider!

Ingredients

- 1 lemon
- 1 gallon pure apple cider
- 1 large orange, thinly sliced crosswise
- 2 tsp whole cloves
- 2 tsp allspice berries
- 1 inch fresh ginger, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp honey
- 3 cinnamon sticks

Directions

1. Using a paring knife, shave the lemon peel off in curls. Reserve the curls and save the lemon for use in a different recipe.
2. In a large slow cooker, combine the lemon peel with all other ingredients. Cook on low for 3–4 hours.
3. If desired, use a sieve to strain the spices. Serve and enjoy!



RAZUMICH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

LAWYERS READY TO FIGHT

DEFENDING YOUR RIGHTS, FIGHTING FOR YOU

www.lawyersreadytofight.com
317-934-9725

156 East Market Street, 13th Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE, ID
PERMIT 411

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Desks of Razumich & Associates
PAGE 1

What Makes a Christmas Movie a
Christmas Movie?
PAGE 1

Winter Road Trip Essentials You Didn't
Know You Needed
PAGE 2

Meet Kismet, a Dentist's Toothless
Therapy Dog
PAGE 3

Festive Apple Cider
PAGE 3

The Surprising History of
the Snowman
PAGE 4

SOLUTION

7	4	6	2	3	1	9	5	8
5	3	1	9	8	6	7	4	2
2	8	9	7	4	5	6	1	3
4	7	2	1	6	3	8	9	5
8	9	5	4	7	2	1	3	6
6	1	3	8	5	9	2	7	4
3	5	8	6	1	7	4	2	9
1	2	4	5	9	8	3	6	7
9	6	7	3	2	4	5	8	1



NOT JUST A CORN COB PIPE AND BUTTON NOSE THE SURPRISING HISTORY OF THE SNOWMAN

Building a snowman is one of the most picturesque winter activities, which is why snowmen have become a wintertime cultural icon. A snowman appeared on the very first postcards, was the subject of some of the earliest photos, and even starred in silent movies. Frosty may be a happy snowman now, but his ancestors have a much more varied — and sometimes dark — history.

The Middle Ages

Snowmen were a phenomenon in the Middle Ages. They were constructed with deep thought and great skill because, during a time of limited means of expression, snow was a free art supply that literally fell from the sky. These artistic feats were popular winter attractions for well-to-do couples who wanted to get their fix of temporary art. Snowmen were often created by famous artists, including 19-year-old Michelangelo who, in 1494, was

commissioned by the ruler of Florence to sculpt a snowman in his mansion's courtyard.

The Miracle of 1511

In Brussels in 1511, during six weeks of subzero temperatures called the Winter of Death, the city was miraculously adorned with hundreds of snowmen. The spectacle told stories on every street corner — some political and some demonstrating anger with the church, many too risqué to speak of. For the people of Brussels, this Miracle of 1511 was a defining moment of artistic freedom. But when spring came and the snow thawed, the Belgians were left with damaging floods.

The Schenectady Massacre

Not all snowmen have an innocent history. In 1690, former Fort Schenectady in upstate New York was home to a remote Dutch settlement, which was under the constant



threat of attack. Soldiers guarded the gates at all times because they were frozen open, but during a blizzard, they left a pair of snowmen to protect the gates while they sought shelter. That's when 200 French Canadian soldiers and Native Americans approached. Naturally, they were unfazed by the snowmen and ruthlessly invaded the settlement.

Building a snowman seems like a simple and charming activity, but after learning about its surprising history, you might find those piles of snow seem a little more complicated and a lot more meaningful than before.