

# ACCENT

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## THIS WEEKEND'S BEST BETS

### Hands on the Arts Day

**What's there:** Activities including cookie decorating, pottery, bubble painting, yoga, painting, beading and more

**When:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Franklin Cultural Arts and Recreation Center, 396 Branigin Blvd.

**Admission:** Free; lunch items will be available for purchase

### Indiana Flower and Patio Show

**When:** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. today and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** Indiana State Fairgrounds, West Pavilion and Expo Hall, 1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis

**Admission:** \$9; free for children; \$1 discount coupons are available at Key Bank locations and at hshow.com/indiana\_flower\_patio

**Parking:** \$3; free shuttle to buildings

**Information:** hshow.com/indiana\_flower\_patio

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR:

### BOB CRAGEN



A Jimmy Buffett photo hangs below a Margaritaville sign and a Harley Davidson rocking horse stands in the corner of Bob Cragen's basement in the Center Grove area.

His Foxberry Trace home is shared by his wife, two sons and a dog, but the basement belongs to the 26-year-old businessman and Perry Meridian High School teacher.

One of his model planes sits on a pool table. He points out photographs of waterfalls in Brazil as he talks about Cragen Lawn Service, his family and favorite things.

**Tackiest thing in a yard:** I hate the ornaments that have the balls, and they are always on a little stand and they are different colors.

**Worst chore:** I despise doing laundry. I make (my wife) do all the laundry.

**Favorite car music:** I listen to Jimmy Buffett. I am a Parrothead. I have not missed a Buffett concert in years.

**First thing you would do if you were president:** Fire half of Congress. They are all idiots. And I'd probably make Jimmy Buffett my vice president. We'd take care of some problems.

**First car:** '95 Camaro Z28. Black. You always remember your baby.

**Lawn-care advice:** You need to mow in different directions each time. Most people mow in the same direction each time, and it puts too much stress on the lawn.

**Bad habits:** I am perfect in every way.

Interview and photo by Lauren Conlon

**Web extra**  
For more questions and answers, visit [www.thejournalnet.com](http://www.thejournalnet.com)

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# The fast and the funny

Vin Diesel yuks it up in return to acting roots

By DAVID GERMAIN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## LOS ANGELES

The man who made "12 Angry Men," "Serpico," "Network" and "Dog Day Afternoon" clearly sees something more in action star Vin Diesel than most people do.

For his first film since 1999's "Gloria," director Sidney Lumet cast Diesel to star in "Find Me Guilty," the story of Lucchese crime family member Jackie DiNorscio, who staged a sort of stand-up-comic routine defending himself at a mammoth mob trial in the late 1980s.

Diesel started as a serious stage actor in New York, yet movie fans tend to think of him as the brooding bruiser of "The Fast and the Furious."

He made his own way early on, writing, directing and starring in a short film that played at the Cannes Film Festival and doing the same for a feature that made it into the Sundance Film Festival.

And while Diesel projects the kind of impish humor that made DiNorscio the star attraction at the Lucchese trial, fans may think his comic talents are limited to mocking his stoic image as he did in the family flick "The Pacifier."

So what's Lumet seeing that most of the rest of us aren't?

"When this picture came up, there was no doubt in my mind," said Lumet, who had seen the range Diesel displays in his short film "Multi-Facial," a career-starter that prompted Steven Spielberg to create a role for Diesel in "Saving Private Ryan."

"I knew I wasn't buying a pig in a poke. I knew how good he was," Lumet said.

As DiNorscio, Diesel, 38, plays a character about 10 years older than he is. Diesel packed on 30 pounds of flab and underwent two hours of makeup a day to resemble the overweight DiNorscio, who was serving a 30-year sentence on drug charges when he decided to act as his own lawyer at the racketeering trial of 21 Lucchese associates.

Dragging on for 21 months in 1987-88, the trial was lightened by the antics of DiNorscio, who told a dirty joke in his opening argument and had jurors and others in the courtroom in stitches with his patter.

If the notion of Diesel collaborating with Lumet sounds surprising, the actor's next project will turn even more heads.

Diesel is going the Mel Gibson



AP PHOTOS

Sent to prison on a drug charge, Jackie DiNorscio (Vin Diesel) refuses to become a government witness against his former associates in the New Jersey Lucchese crime family in the courtroom romp "Find Me Guilty."

route with the "Braveheart"-like epic "Hannibal," about the 3rd century B.C. Carthaginian leader who led an army riding elephants across the Alps in an assault on Rome.

With plans to direct "Hannibal" himself, Diesel will star in the title role, the film also will take a cue from Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ." Diesel aims to shoot the film in Greek, Latin and ancient Punic.

He hopes to begin production in the fall, with the film debuting in 2007.

"If you do something like that, you want to go all the way," he said.

Actor Vin Diesel lifts a promotional cut-out of himself in character as mobster Jack DiNorscio from his new film "Find Me Guilty."



## Buff action star shows soft side

Vin Diesel rebounded after a couple of action stinkers with last year's "The Pacifier," a hit family film about a Navy SEAL assigned to baby-sit the kids of a government scientist.

Diesel was not trying to break out of the action mold. He just wanted to make something kid-friendly.

"The honest reason was my niece and nephew weren't allowed to see Uncle Vin movies, and they're my biggest fans," Diesel said. "I guess I got a little sick of, 'No, you can't come to this one; no, you can't come to that one.' And they're, 'But I saw the poster, Uncle Vin!' "It was an opportunity to do a picture for the kids."

The Associated Press

## Everyone has a time to go, but some people won't go on time

I always liked Art Buchwald. Well, let me correct that. I don't know him, but I liked his column and his books.

And I liked the fact that by being so funny, and so good, he paved the way for guys like me to make our livings as alleged humor columnists.

So I always liked him. But now I love him.

Art, in case you haven't heard, is dying. In fact, by the time you read this he may have gone and done it, given the way deadlines work for newspaper columns.

Anyway, after his leg was amputated a few weeks ago, he was told he would have to be on dialysis the rest of his life. He didn't care for the idea and declined it.

And so he went into hospice care to die, on his own terms.



Mike Redmond

Except it doesn't seem to be happening on schedule. When he got there, he understood his stay would be two or three weeks.

As of the day I am writing this, it has been six and, he says, "I've gotten so well Medicare won't pay for me anymore. I am known in the hospice as The Man Who Wouldn't Die."

Art Buchwald's story has resonance for me because my

father, Pat Redmond, did go on dialysis.

His kidneys had failed and he refused to consider accepting a donor kidney from the likely matches: his sister, my siblings and me.

The doctors told him dialysis would offer a short-term solution at best, but Dad went through it for eight years and thrived a good many of those years. Which gets me back to Art Buchwald.

Buchwald recently wrote that it has been the time of his life, with a constant stream of famous visitors and all kinds of good food.

One day he mentioned to a friend that he would like a corned beef sandwich. The next day he received 10.

Once again back to Dad: He always loved the first two hours

of dialysis, because in that time the dietary restrictions under which he lived were lifted.

After all, any salt that got into his bloodstream at the beginning of dialysis would be washed out before the session was over.

So that was his time for, yep, a corned beef sandwich.

So imagine Art in the living room of a hospice, holding court, sending out to McDonald's for burgers and shakes, enjoying it all. And he is fully aware that it is the end of his life.

My dad was aware of the same thing about his life. He used dialysis to keep it at bay as long as he could.

Buchwald made the other choice. But there is, as Aristotle taught, similarity in the dissimilar. In their ways — Dad on dial-

## Luck o' the Irish to you

Daily Journal staff report

Although not a federal holiday in the United States, St. Patrick's Day has a long history of being celebrated with parades and good will for all things Irish.

The day commemorates St. Patrick, believed to have died on March 17, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century.

Because many Americans celebrate their Irish lineage on St. Patrick's Day, March was proclaimed Irish-American Heritage Month by Congress in 1995.

**34.5 million**

Number of U.S. residents who claim Irish ancestry. This number is almost nine times the population of Ireland itself (4.1 million).

**25,870**

The number of U.S. residents who speak Irish Gaelic at home.

**128,000**

Number of U.S. residents born in Ireland.

**4.8 million**

Number of immigrants from Ireland lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence since fiscal year 1820, the earliest year for which official immigration records exist.

**4**

Number of places in the United States named Shamrock, the floral emblem of Ireland: Mount Gay-Shamrock, W.Va.; Shamrock, Texas; Shamrock Lakes, Ind.; and Shamrock, Okla.

**8 million**

Number of St. Patrick's Day cards Americans exchanged last year, making this observance the ninth-largest card-sending occasion in the United States.

**93.3 million**

Number of people who reportedly planned to wear green on St. Patrick's Day last year.

SOURCES: American FactFinder, www.cso.ie, U.S. Census Bureau, Hallmark, Department of Homeland Security and National Retail Federation

Mike Redmond is the author of "Six of One, Half-Dozen of Another" and "The Night the Wheels Fell Off." Send comments to [letters@thejournalnet.com](mailto:letters@thejournalnet.com).