

One local gardener's awakening



Photo provided

By Mike Bernhardt

In the beginning: dark, damp soil.

A small, black plastic pot of hope. Nothing seems to be growing but my own impatience.

A few evenings later, the dirt has begun to mound and rise, swelled by a pushing from below. In the morning a white nub has appeared below the broken surface of the soil. By evening the protuberance has thickened, a loop of pale white rope tinged with green. The next morning a head is crowning, something large and thick and green dragged up out of the dirt. By the end of that same day, the head has revealed itself, the stalk straightening and hoisting up the bean from which this miracle was born.

Another day and leaves unfurl like the wings of a newborn butterfly, the bean split into drying halves that hang limp from the stem. A week later and the plant is over six inches tall with broad, heart-shaped leaves, and between them: another nub, green and tender, the beginning of a vine.

Once planted in the ground it will reach for its support pole and then, finding it, wrap itself counterclockwise—always counterclockwise—and upward, sprouting leaves and flowers and bean pods and clinging to everything it touches. It will grow over six feet long, topping the pole, still reaching skyward until, finding nothing to hold, it will collapse gently onto its neighbor and they will wrap themselves together in a season-long embrace. In two months, I'll be picking beans and steaming them for dinner.

Until now, I hadn't paid close attention to how seeds grow. My life for the last few years has centered on travel and so I usually buy plants, put them in the ground, and set my drip irrigation system. ... continued on Page D8

FOUND!

rustic home on 1-acre lost valley lot



12

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Spectacular one-acre flat lot with a 1,421 sf rustic 3 BR, 2 BA home, located at the end of a peaceful cul-de-sac. Level entry and walkway into the home and all around the garden. The interior is wood paneled with a slab foundation, with a mid-century modern vibe design. A living room, kitchen and great room, glassed in patio dining room, and 3 bedrooms, (master bath ensuite), and additional full bath, oozes with charm.

This park-like setting has a huge outdoor space, privacy, and features a fruit tree orchard, a detached red barn and a surprising wood structure under the oak trees (potential home office?).

In consideration of the current climate, showing by appointment only.



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