



Jennifer Music Quillici with dogs Henry and Hudson



New Dog in Town

A new East Sac market celebrates local creators.

BY ELENA M. MACALUSO

When space became available in East Sacramento's Sutter Park new-home development in 2022, Jennifer Music Quillici's entrepreneurial spirit lit up.

Named Mad Dog Market in a whimsical nod to Quillici's two golden retrievers, the shop sells everything from gourmet food and coffee to pillows, towels, tote bags (some imprinted with images of dogs, of course), candles and soaps. However, while you'll find lines such as the popular Stonewall Kitchen out of Maine, Quillici's real passion is featuring the work of local artisans. Stop into her shop and you'll find work by painter Susan Ballenger and photographer Diane Hill along with scrumptious finds such as Carmazzi Caramel Corn; Earth & Vine marinades, dressings and jams; Better Than Brittle peanut brittle; and FatCat Bakery cookies and scones. Carrying the goods of local artists and entrepreneurs—all based in the Greater Sacramento area—is important to Quillici, a Sacramento native. "I believe in supporting the dreams of small business owners and working together to spread the word of new businesses," says Quillici,

Mother Hen for Hire



For many youngsters, babysitting is a time-honored starter job. Sacramento teen Savannah Story is getting her first work experience in a slightly different way: as a baby-chick sitter.

The 14-year-old recently hung out a shingle (OK, she actually posted a flier on the fence of her family's East Sac home) advertising her services. For \$30, she will raise a chick from a defenseless 2-day-old covered in fluff to a fully grown 10-week-old ready to live with other chickens in an outdoor coop.

The Brookfield eighth-grader has a lot of experience caring for chicks. She was only 3 when her mother started keeping chickens in the backyard. At first, Story entertained the family fowl by pushing them in the front yard swing and taking them on wagon rides. Eventually, she assumed most of the family's chicken-keeping duties.

Then she realized she could put her poultry knowledge to good use by offering her services to people who want backyard chickens but don't want the hands-on work of raising them from baby chicks to adulthood. "They need a lot of care," Story says, noting that chicks have to be kept indoors until they're at least 6 weeks old. "They need water, food, a heat lamp, and you have to clean their cage."

They also need that essential mothering ingredient: love. Story plays classical music for the chicks and lets them sit on her lap while she does homework. When they're 6 weeks old, she takes them outside to a fenced-in pen and allows them to run around on the grass. For socialization, she introduces them to her family's flock and supervises to make sure they don't get pecked on. By the time the chicks are 10 weeks old, they're ready to go to their permanent home.

Story simply loves her fowl charges. "Chickens are my favorite animal," she says.—*MARYBETH BIZJAK*



Savannah Story



who also touts nearby Casa restaurant and Mad Dog Market neighbors Druthers Coffee & Waffles and Poppy by Mama Kim any chance she gets. "One of the best ways to encourage support is to give it."

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Ballenger and Hill, had residents at Oakmont of East Sacramento, a nearby retirement community, paint rocks in honor of the holiday. Quillici later hid the rocks in Sutter Park and invited kids to find them. Each child was invited back to the store for hot cocoa and a bag of caramel corn. "My goal is to have one event per month," she says. Check her website or subscribe to her mailing list to learn about monthly events, classes and tastings. 533 53rd St.; (916) 813-5135; maddog.sutterpark.com; @maddogsutterpark

DON'T MISS: SATURDAY TASTINGS

Every Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m., Mad Dog Market holds product tastings and hands out recipes inspired by the products.