

VENDOR PROFILES

By David Crowder

Heidrun Bean



Every Saturday, Heidrun Bean brings an array of her homemade soaps and other bodily beneficials to sell at Ardivino's Farmers Market, as she's been doing for the last 22 years.

That puts her up there with the earliest vendors at the El Paso area's longest-running outdoor market, just across the New Mexico line at Ardivino's Desert Crossing.

"We were the very first market in El Paso, and the only market that requires that you make it or grow it - not anything for resale," she said on a recent sunny Saturday morning.

Ask her what she sells for skin care, and she will describe an array of 20 to 30 different soaps and scrubs that she's created.

"Shaving bombs, face washes, deodorants, bombs for muscle aches, foot scrub because feet have old skin and you want to get rid of it, so your feet don't sweat," she said. "I love that foot bomb! It's my personal favorite. It detoxifies the skin, takes out blemishes and all the stubble and dead skin scales, it takes it off," she said, adding a sugar scrub.

Her recommendations don't necessarily involve a purchase, as this old writer learned on asking her about little white speckles on my arms and legs.

Taking my right arm with two hands and looking closely, she said, "You are dehydrated." Pulling out an eight-ounce bottle of water to show me, she said, "Drink eight of these a day, and they will go away along with those wrinkles."

And, they have.

Heidrun brings a long history to her tasks - a background in chemistry from her previous life in Germany and a nursing career with University Medical Center and El Paso's Hotel Dieu Hospital before it closed in 1987.

"I retired after 30 years and started a home health service, but every once in a while, they want me to come back," she said, referring to UMC. She still has that home health business, which involves visiting patients at their homes. Juggling it all, she said, is "very challenging."

She is 66, but you would never know it, not with her rosy, youthful cheeks.

If she didn't have enough to keep herself occupied in her busy retirement years, Heidrun took up aerial acrobatics and hoop dancing a few years ago and actually competes suspended up in the air. She was mentioned in a Las Vegas, Nevada Review-Journal article as an amateur participant, at 62, in the 2019 Third Annual Las Vegas International Arts Festival, also known as "Viva Fest."