

Montoya splits her time between Albuquerque and Houston.



Scarlett Johansson

Via Facebook: A friend writes, "I just saw **Scarlett Johansson**." After further inquiries, Johansson, or her twin, was headed into the Museum of International Folk Art on Wednesday.

**Noah Bahnson**, who grew up in Santa Fe and is a 2001 graduate of Desert Academy, was part of a skydiving world record

broken in Chicago earlier this month. The 25-year-old, says his mother, Jeanne, believes in following his passion. He teaches skydiving for a living and also is a wind-tunnel instructor (wind speeds are 190 miles per hour inside).

His younger brother, **Trevor**, 23, is a musician but also loves extreme sports. "My other son jumps, too. I stood on the ground and watched them both jump out of the airplane at the same time," their mother said. The skydiving free-fall record was broken by 108 people jumping from five planes at once (see the jump at YouTube). The skydivers, according to reports, had just 40 seconds from 18,000 feet to make their formation and then just one second to let go and prepare for their safe landing.

As exciting as Bahnson is, his girlfriend, **Roberta Mancino**, is way ahead of him. She's the Italian free-flying champion, swims with sharks for television programs and has a black belt in martial arts.

Send your sightings to [elmitote@sfnwmexican.com](mailto:elmitote@sfnwmexican.com)

But after recently winning the state High (to High Level) maybe five times in my

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# Spreading the joy of makeover magic



PHAEDRA HAYWOOD  
*La fashionaria*

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, consider me sincerely flattered.

Ginny Hogan, a Big Sister in the youth-mentoring organization Big Brothers Big Sisters, contacted me recently to tell me that my annual makeover project had inspired her Little Sister, Brandy Romero, to give her a makeover.

The pair have been matched for eight years, since Brandy was 8 years old. "She was just a sweet little girl then and now she's a teenager," Ginny said. "And she's been wanting to do this to me for a long time. She just felt I was dowdier than I really should be."

Ginny said the two talk about everything — so Ginny took it well when Brandy gently delivered the news that she thought her Big Sister could use some sprucing up.

"I just wanted her to look younger but not like an old lady trying to look young," said Brandy.



**Brandy Romero, 16, center, convinced Ginny Hogan to allow her to do a makeover. Here's what Hogan looked like before, during and after the do-it-yourself project.**

Courtesy photos

Then came the hard work; the shopping. Without the newspaper bankrolling the project, the pair had to do it on the cheap, so they headed to Wal-Mart, where the mission was to find Ginny jeans.

Brandy said she wanted to put Ginny in jeans because she thinks they show off a woman's shape regardless of her size.

It was a good instinct; as you might have noticed in the before picture, the short wide-legged drawstring drawers Ginny was sporting were doing absolutely nothing for her.

"We went through a lot of jeans trying to find the right ones," Brandy said. "I hadn't fit into jeans in 10 years," Ginny e-mailed.

But fit she did — into a pair of Rider Relaxed jeans for a mere \$16.92. (Larger women take note: Jeans are available in just about every size imaginable these days.)

Next — after trying on quite a few rejects — the duo selected a shirt, Rider's "Instantly Slims You" blouse for \$13.

Ginny said she was dubious about the tag on the blouse that claimed it would slim one instantly, "but it really does. I was so shocked. It's just the way it is sewn. Everyone needs to go get one!"

Brandy said she let Ginny pick the top, "because I wanted her to do something that was herself, but fun."

Next the pair picked up a belt with peace signs on it (Ginny was a flower child in the '60s) at Ross Dress for Less (\$7.99), and then hit up Walgreens for some cosmetics.

For the makeup, Brandy said she aimed for "light colors that wouldn't look too dramatic but would bring out her eyes."

Ginny also trusted Brandy to pluck her brows, and defined their shape with a charcoal-colored

brow pencil that blends well with her gray hair.

"I use it every day now," Ginny said. "I had never done anything with my eyebrows, and they are really important."

Next, Brandy took a straight-iron to Ginny's head, changing her look forever.

"I definitely will change my look for the rest of my life," Ginny said of the entire experience. "I've had so many compliments, and it's been a long time since I've gotten any compliments at all."

Post makeover, Ginny and Brandy made a tour of Ginny's neighborhood and showed off her new look to some neighbors. One told her he felt short curly hair "screams mother," Ginny said. "Now that my hair is straight, maybe I will look more like a girlfriend type!"

Brandy doesn't profess to be a fashion expert, but the transformation of her Big Sister goes to show all you fashion-flummoxed readers out there that simply having someone (anyone) with a fresh eye evaluate your look is a risk worth taking, especially when it's done with love.

"I wanted her to look younger and fun and I hope I did that for her," Brandy said. "It felt really good."

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