

Earth Science Museum, 3215 W. Bethany Home Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85017 www.earthsciencemuseum.org, scote@earthsciencemuseum.org, 602-973-4291 May 2023 Volume 12, Issue 5

ESM OUTREACH UPDATE

Mardy Zimmermann, Outreach Coordinator

On May 17th, Lynne & Terry Dyer taught 98 third grade students at Riverview School in El Mirage (4 classes and 4 teachers).

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Mineral Flowers By Harvey Jong

The phrase "April showers bring May flowers" is the inspiration for this article which explores some minerals with habits that resemble flowers. These floral forms have been described as "flowers", "roses", "rosettes", or "sprays". A search of mindat.org's database for International Mineralogical Association (IMA)-approved minerals with such morphologies produced the following results:

Habit/morphology	Number of Minerals
Rose/rosette	86
Spray	33
Flower	2

The 121 "flowery" minerals represent about two percent of the 5,926 minerals currently recognized by the IMA.

Our journey through the garden of flowerlike occurrences in the mineral kingdom will begin with desert roses.

Desert Roses

Desert rose is a generic term that refers to any intricate crystal cluster which roughly appears like a rose. These intergrown groups of flattened crystals typically form by precipitation in arid regions and may contain sand particles that impart an overall color. A variety of evaporite minerals may occur as desert roses, and gypsum (calcium sulfate hydrate, $CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$) is an example of a common species.

Gypsum Roses

The Samalayuca Dune Fields in Chihuahua, Mexico is a well-known source of gypsum (selenite) roses. The tan-colored roses are found in playa lake deposits, and specimens range from single spherical groups to large aesthetic clusters of multiple rose formations.



Gypsum Roses

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Daderot photo, CC0 1.0-UPD, via Wikimedia Commons Chihuahua, Mexico

Natural History Museum of Utah specimen

Morocco has several large seas of dunes formed by wind-blown sand. These areas are called ergs, and gypsum roses have been collected from the dunes.



Gypsum Rose Géry Parent photo, - PD, via Wikimedia Commons Morocco Dimensions: 9 cm wide



Group of Gypsum Roses Edenesan photo, - CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Morocco Dimensions: 18 x 10 cm

The salt lake of Chott el Djerid in South-West Tunisia has produced a large number of gypsum roses which are also known as Sahara roses given the lake's location in the Sahara Desert. High salt content results in more crystalline specimens.



Large Gypsum Rose Formation Laura Peña photo, - CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Tunisian Desert



Gypsum Rose Cluster

Daderot photo, - CC0 1.0-UPD, via Wikimedia Commons Tunisia

Natural History Museum Nuremberg specimen

Gypsum roses have been found in the desert regions of the Middle East, such as the Arabian, Sinai, and Syrian Deserts.



Gypsum Rose

Tiit Hunt photo, - CC_BY_SA-4.0 International, via Wikimedia Commons Egypt Estonian Museum of Natural History specimen



Gypsum Roses Skrzylech photo, - CC_BY_SA-4.0 International, via Wikimedia Commons Syrian Desert, Iraq



Gypsum Rose Cluster DerHexer photo, - CC_BY_SA-4.0, via Wikimedia Commons Dhahran, Eastern Region, Saudi Arabia Harvard Museum of Natural History specimen

Other Flower-like Gypsum Occurrences

In addition to desert rose formations, gypsum has been found in flower-like arrangements as cave speleothems or crystal aggregates in lacustrine clay beds.



Gypsum Speleothems James St. John photo, - CC_BY_SA-2,0, via Wikimedia Commons Cleaveland Avenue, Mammoth Cave, Kentucky

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Gypsum Crystal Cluster

Marie-Lan Taÿ Pamart photo, - CC_BY_SA-4.0 International, via Wikimedia Commons Red River Floodway, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Gallery of Mineralogy and Geology of the French National Museum of Natural History, Paris specimen

Baryte Roses

Baryte (formerly known as barite) is another mineral that can occur as rose-like Oklahoma's Garber Sandstone aggregates. formation is probably the best known source of baryte roses which are also known as rose In 1968, the Oklahoma state rocks. legislature designated the baryte rose as the official state rock, while an "emergency" law passed in 1983 declared that Noble, Oklahoma (a small town south of Norman) is the official rose rock capital of Oklahoma and the world!

The baryte roses from Oklahoma contain angular medium quartz sand and have a distinctive reddish tone is due to the presence of hematite. Specimens typically vary from 1-10 cm in diameter, but huge clusters weighing hundreds of kilograms have been found.



Baryte Roses

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Lake Thunderbird area, Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma

Dimensions: 10.2 x 7.1 x 5.5 cm



Large Cluster of Baryte Roses Archbob photo, <u>goodfreephotos.com</u> - CC0 1.0-UPD, via Wikimedia Commons

Baryte roses have also been found in Kansas, Germany, Morocco, and Australia. Samples from Germany's Rockenberg sand pit have a light tan color and are comprised of around 50% quartz sand particles and 40% baryte.

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Baryte Roses

Hanes Grobe/AWI photo, - CC_BY_SA-4.0 International, via Wikimedia Commons Sand pit, Rockenberg, Wetterau, Hesse, Germany



Baryte Roses

Tiia Monto photo, - CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Naturmuseum Augsburg specimen

Chalcedony Roses

The term "desert rose" also includes roseshaped chalcedony clusters. Chalcedony is a cryptocrystalline variety of silica (SiO_2) that forms when silica-rich water percolates through rocks and precipitates in cavities or fractures. The resulting deposits may involve spherical aggregates which grow into and around one another producing layered bubbly masses. Round groups may resemble roses, and some specimens may have surfaces covered by tiny sparkling quartz crystals. In addition, a few chalcedony roses may contain impurities, such as uranyl ions, and exhibit a bright green fluorescence under short wave ultraviolet light.

Chalcedony roses have been collected at numerous locations throughout Arizona, and two well-known sites include Saddle Mountain in Maricopa County and Round Mountain in Greenlee County.



Chalcedony Roses Under White Light and Short Wave Ultraviolet

Harvey Jong photo, Shirley Coté specimens Saddle Mountain, Maricopa County, Arizona Dimensions: top rose 6.5 x 4.1 x 2.5 cm

bottom rose: 4.6 x 3.5 x 1.6 cm

Chalcedony Rose

James St. John photo, - CC_BY_SA-2.0, via Wikimedia Common

Round Mountain, Arizona (Note: the county was not specified, but is most likely Greenlee County)

New Mexico also has several localities where chalcedony roses have been found. Colors may vary from colorless, gray, pink, to light lavender, while many specimens may fluoresce bright green.

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Earthquake



Group of Chalcedony Roses Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Lincoln County, New Mexico Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.4 x 2.3 cm

Below is an example of a chalcedony rose covered with drusy quartz.



Chalcedony Rose with Drusy Quartz

Elke Wetzig photo, - CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Common Knoxville, California Mineralogical Museum Bonn specimen

Azurite Roses

Like desert roses, azurite may occur as radiating flower-like clusters of lustrous crystals. Many noteworthy specimens have been collected from classic Arizona localities, such as Bisbee and Morenci.



Azurite Rose

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Cole Mine, Bisbee, Warren district, Cochise County, Arizona Dimensions: 2.5 x 2.1 x 1.9 cm



Azurite Rose

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Detroit Mine, Morenci, Copper Mountain district, Greenlee County, Arizona Dimensions: 9.8 x 7.8 x 6.7 cm In the 1980s-1990s, many azurite roses of varying sizes were collected at the Morenci Mine which included this large specimen.

La Sal in southeastern Utah is another wellknown source of sharp, deep blue azurite roses.



Azurite Rose

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons La Sal, La Sal district, San Juan County, Utah Dimensions: 3.1 x 2.7 x 2.3 cm

The first azurite roses may have been collected from the Chessy-les Mines in France which is the type locality for azurite. Note that the mineral was originally known as "chessylite", but was later renamed in 1824.



Azurite Rose

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Chessy-les_Mines, Rhône, Rhône-Alpes, France

Dimensions: 2.8 x 2.8 x 2.6 cm

Around 1980s, some exceptional azurite specimens, which included rose-shaped clusters, were found at the Shi Lu Copper Mine in Guangdong Province, China. These azurites were reminiscent of specimens from Arizona



Azurite Rose

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Shi Lu Copper Mine, Guangdong Province, China

Dimensions: 4.5 x 3.8 x 3.4 cm

Pseudomorph after Azurite Roses

Azurite may be replaced by different minerals, such as malachite and native copper, which leads to rose-shaped pseudomorphs. Below are a few examples:





Malachite after Azurite Rose Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Milpillas Mine, Municipio de Cananea, Sonora, Mexico Dimensions: This rose is part of a larger 9.2 x 3.8 x 3.5 cm specimen



Native Copper after Azurite Rose Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Copper Rose Mine, San Lorenzo, Grant County, New Mexico Dimensions: 3.2 x 2.8 x 1.9 cm



Chrysocolla after Malachite after Azurite Roses

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Whim Creek Copper Mine, Whim Creek, Pilbara Region, Western Australia, Australia Dimensions: Close-up of 5.0 x 4.0 x 2.9 cm specimen

Hematite Roses

Hematite is another mineral that may exhibit a rosette habit. Rounded aggregates of tabular crystals appear like rose petals, and these formations have been called "iron roses".



Hematite Rose

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Central St. Gotthard Massif, Ticino, Switzerland Dimensions: 4.9 x 4.1 x 2.7 cm

Very lustrous, well-formed hematite roses have been collected from the numerous Alpine-type clefts in Switzerland.



Hematite Roses with Quartz

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Traversella, Torino Province, Piedmont, Italy Dimensions: 7.9 x 4.5 x 3.8 cm, hematite roses are up to 2.6 cm across

The Traversella mining area is located 60 km North of Torino and has produced specimens of black hematite associated with milky white quartz crystals. The hematite may occur as very thin, disk-shaped crystals intergrown as tight spherical, flower-like aggregates.



Hematite Rose

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Serra das Éguas, Brumado, Bahia, Brazil Dimensions: 4.1 x 3.2 x 1.3 cm Bright, metallic clusters of hematite have been collected in Bahia and Minas Gerais, Brazil. Specimens consist of numerous parallel growth crystals.



Hematite Roses with Quartz

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com, -CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Lechang Mine, Guangdong Province, China Dimensions: 8.4 x 6.8 x 4.1 cm Aesthetic specimens of hematite roses interspersed with quartz crystals have been found in several Chinese provinces, such as Guangdong, Hunan, and Sichuan.

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Other Flower-like Mineral Occurrences

Some mineral floral patterns are revealed only after being cut and polished. Chrysanthemum stone or "flower rock" is an example of such an embedded rosette occurrence.

Chrysanthemum Stone

Chrysanthemum stone has been mined in China for over 200 years. Carving and polishing this lapidary material has produced some amazing ornamental objects, such as the one depicted in the link below:

Large Chrysanthemum Stone That Has Been Sculpted to Reveal Several Flower Formations Xinhua/Song Wen copyrighted photo, via China.org.cn

Chrysanthemum stone may varv in composition based on the locality where it was found. Initial studies of samples from Province, the Liuvang, Hunan China indicated that the flower-like formations are comprised of celestine (a strontium sulfate, SrSO₄, formerly known as celestite). Subsequent finds from Shaanxi, Hubei, and Jiangxi Provinces were either assumed to involve celestine or identified as ikaite, a hydrated calcium carbonate.

A recent analysis, however, has shown that the rosettes are a calcite paramorph (a pseudomorph formed by a change in molecular structure without changing the chemical composition) after a strontiumbearing carbonate and include tiny grains of celestine, strontianite, and occasional baryte (Makovicky et al., 2006). The rosette petals may be coated and replaced by chalcedony to varying degrees.

It should be noted that specimens are often enhanced in which crystal patterns are painted with a dye and outlined in black ink. Lacquer or wax may also be applied to darken the limestone matrix.



Chrysanthemum Stone Parent Géru photo, - PD, via Wikimedia Commons Daxi River, Liu Yang, Hunan China



Chrysanthemum Stone Two+two=4 photo, - PD, via Wikimedia Commons China



Chrysanthemum Stone

Mike Beauregard photo, specimen from the Laval University, Quebec City, Canada collection - CC_BY_SA-2.0, via Wikimedia Commons China Dimensions: 4 x 8 in. This specimen depicts a butterfly and



Chrysanthemum Stone

小川処堂 photo, CC_BY_SA-4.0 International, via Wikimedia Commons Neo area, Gifu Prefecture, Japan The flower patterns of Japanese chrysanthemum stone are made of aragonite, while the red centers are due to presence of iron. The stone is found in a gorge which is part of a national monument and collecting of Japan, is strictly prohibited.

One Last Example

We will conclude our tour of the garden of mineral flowers with a special specimen of cavansite [calcium vanadyl silicate hydrate, $Ca(VO)Si_4O_{10}\cdot 4H_2O$]. Cavansite was discovered in 1967 and is named for the elements calcium, vanadium, and silicon in its chemical composition. The type locality is the Owyhee Dam in Lake Owyhee State Park, Malheur County, Oregon, but India's Wagholi quarries are recognized as the key source of exceptional specimens.



Cavansite on Quartz

Rob Lavinsky photo, iRocks.com - CC_BY_SA-3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Wagholi quarries, Wagholi, Pune District, Maharashtra, India Dimensions: 3.1 x 1.3 x 1.2 cm This specimen features a flowery spray of cavansite perched on a "stem" of quartz.

References

Makovicky, E., S. Karup-Møller, and J. Li (2006) Mineralogy of the chrysanthemum stone. Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie -Abhandlungen (New Yearbook of Mineralogy - Treatises) 182(3):241-251.

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AZ Mining, Mineral & Natural Resources Education Museum Update May 2023

https://ammnre.arizona.edu/

Catie Carter Sandoval cscarter@email.arizona.edu 703.577.6449 Help support the museum at: http://tinyurl.com/SupportMM-NREMuseum

This month we continued working with our design-build team to prepare for renovations on our El Zaribah Shrine building at 1502 W. Washington St. Our contractors and architects have been working diligently to determine priority improvements and assess structural and electrical systems. Part of the renovation process includes working with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to assess the historical features of the building, which was originally built in 1921 and renovated from 1990-1991. Some of the original features that we hope to renew and preserve include the windows, hardwood floor, and exterior facade.

We've also started to clear out the inside to prepare for interior demolition. We are in the process of moving cases and supplies to other organizations, including Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum in Miami, AZ. Thanks to Bullion Executive Director Tom Foster, and volunteers Bill Yedowitz and Les Presmyk for helping get material ready to move. Another notable event from May included a visit from Regent DuVal of the Arizona Board of Regents. We are lucky to have the support of ABOR and other government organizations. And as always, we are very grateful for the support of our museum friends and will continue to keep you posted about our progress. Thank you!



Walking on the roof which holds solar panels providing power to our building Photo is facing west towards the State Capitol.



An official from the AZ State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) assesses the building's exterior paint and stucco. Did you know that the original accent color wasn't light blue, but a beautiful dark coral?





Arizona Rocks 120

Text and photos by Ray Grant

This column marks ten years of Arizona Rocks. You can go to earthsciencemuseum.org and pick newsletters to find all the past columns.

Arizona Rocks!!!! Because:

Geology: The Grand Canyon is the number one geological site in the United States and millions of people come from all over the world to see it. Lots more good geology everywhere in the state, like volcanoes at the San Francisco Peaks, Sunset Crater, Superstitions and Chiricahuas, rocks from over two billion years old to rocks just a few thousand years old, and Meteor Crater the world's best preserved impact site, to name just a few.

Minerals: Arizona is right at the top or near in the state with the most minerals. We have documented over a 1000 different mineral species and 95 type minerals (first place found in the world) in Arizona. It is also famous for all the turquoise that has been found here.

Fossils: Not as famous as some other state's dinosaur fossils but many good fossils found in Arizona and the fossil petrified wood at the Petrified Forest National Park is some of the world's best.

Ore Deposits: Arizona is the leading state for copper production and also produces gold, silver, lead, zinc, manganese and other metals.

If anyone has suggestions or questions about geology for future topics don't hesitate to send them.

Ore Deposits: Morenci Copper Mine, the largest or future largest copper mine in the United States



Geology: Grand Canyon number one geological site in the United States



Minerals: Wickenburgite, one of the over 1000 minerals found in Arizona, named after Wickenburg, Arizona. Photo by Ron Gibbs



Fossils: Petrified wood from the Petrified Forest, Arizona





Pinal Museum and Society News 351 N. Arizona Blvd., Coolidge, AZ Pinal Geology and Mineral Society next meeting September 20, 2023

 www.pinalgeologymuseum.org

 Ray Grant ray@pinalgeologymuseum.org

 CLUMMED HOUDE

SUMMER HOURS

Fridays 10-3

Also, Open May 30, June 1, June 2 closed Saturday, June 3

We've been holding in-person meetings since September, with a wide range of speakers. Meetings are the third Wednesday at 7pm, doors open at 6:30.

On May15, the Pinal Geology and Mineral Museum hosted a meeting of the Pinal County Museum Meet up, a somewhat informal group of museums in Pinal County that meet three times a year. Janice Klein of the Museum Association of Arizona spoke about museum volunteers, followed by a potluck lunch and then reports by each of the museums.





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Mineralogical Society of Arizona June 3-4, 2023 Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4 \$5 adults, \$3 MSA members, 12 & under free El Zaribah Shriners Auditorium and Event Center, 552 N 40th Street Phoenix, AZ

White Mountain Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show July 14-16, 2023 Fri. & Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4 Adults \$4, Children with an adult free Show Low Elks Lodge 805 E. Whipple Show Low, AZ





AUGUST, 4th 5th & 6th FINDLAY TOYOTA EVENT CENTER 3201 N Main St - Prescott Valley (Corner of Glassford Hill & Florentine) FRI & SAT 9-5, SUN 9-4 Admission is Cash Only - ATM Available

FREE PARKING! \$5 Adults \$4 Seniors 65+, Vets, Students Children under 12 FREE w/paid Adult www.PrescottGemMineral.org

West Valley Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show October 6-8, 2023 Fri. & Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-2 Adults \$3, Children under 13 free Buckeye Arena 802 N. 1st Street Buckeye, AZ Huachuca Mineral and Gem Club 49th Annual Show October 14-15, 2023 Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4 Free Admission & Parking Sierra Vista Mall 2200 El Mercado Loop Sierra Vista, AZ



Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday Next Meeting: June 8, 2023, 6:30 pm www.ajrockclub.com

@ Club Lapidary Shop 2151 W. Superstition Blvd., Apache Jct.



Daisy Mountain Rock & Mineral Club

Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday (unless a Holiday then 2nd Tuesday) Next Meeting: June 6, 2023, 6:30 p.m. **Please go to their website for more info**

> www.dmrmc.com @ Anthem Civic Building 3701 W. Anthem Way, Anthem, AZ



Maricopa Lapidary Society, Inc

Meetings are on the 1st Monday (unless a Holiday then 2nd Monday) Next Meeting: June 5, 2023, 7:00 pm <u>www.maricopalapidarysociety.com</u> @ North Mountain Visitor Center 12950 N. 7th St., Phoenix



Mineralogical Society of Arizona

Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday (Except December & June) Next Meeting: Sat., June 17, 2023, 11:00 am Please go to their website for more information www.msaaz.org



Pinal Geology & Mineral Society

Meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday Next Meeting: September 20, 2023, 7:00 pm

In person meeting

www.pinalgeologymuseum.org @ Artisan Village 351 N. Arizona Blvd., Coolidge



West Valley Rock & Mineral Club

Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday Next Meeting: June 13, 2023, 6:30 pm <u>www.westvalleyrockandmineralclub.com</u> @ Buckeye Community Veterans Service Center 402 E. Narramore Avenue, Buckeye, AZ



Gila County Gem & Mineral Society Meetings are on the 1st Thursday (unless a Holiday then the next Thursday) Next Meeting: June 1, 2023, 6:30 pm <u>www.gilagem.org</u> Club Building 413 Live Oak St, Miami, AZ



Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Society

Meetings are on the 2nd Friday (<u>February & December</u> on the 1st Friday) Next Meeting: September 8, 2023, 7:00 pm <u>www.wickenburggms.org</u> @ Coffinger Park Banquet Room 175 E. Swilling St., Wickenburg

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Earthquake

ESM's Meeting Notice

ESM's next meeting will be at North Mountain Visitor Center, 12950 N. 7th St., Phoenix, on Tuesday, TBA 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

BECOME A MEMBER! Join the Earth Science Museum's



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Maricopa Lapidary Society http://maricopalapidarysociety.com/

> Mineralogical Society of AZ www.msaaz.org

Payson Rimstones Rock Club

Sossaman Middle School

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org

Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Society <u>http://www.wickenburggms.org</u> <u>www.facebook.com/pages/Wickenburg-Gem-and-Mineral-Society/111216602326438</u>

West Valley Rock and Mineral Club http://www.westvalleyrockandmineralclub.com/ Staples Foundation www.staplesfoundation.org

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Mission

Our Mission is to excite and inspire all generations about earth sciences through educational outreach.

Vision

We envision a community where students and the general public have curiosity about, passion for, and understanding of the underlying principles of earth sciences.

For more information about the ESM, how to become a member or how to arrange for a school visit or Community function, go to: www.earthsciencemuseum.org.

NOTICE:

ESM's next meeting will be at North Mountain Visitor Center, 12950 N 7th St, Phoenix, on Tuesday, TBA 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING INTEREST & SUPPORT!!!

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