

WEEKLY WORLD CHEESE

*Special “2018 has got
to be better” issue*



December 2017 • Calgaro edition

World in rough shape, but Calgaros OK at least

Loyal readers of the *Weekly World Cheese* might remember that last year's issue declared 2016 “a garbage fire of a year.”

While 2017 turned out to be not much better for the state/nation/world as a whole, the Calgaros are happy to report no major disasters on a household level.

Let's recap.

Family: At press time, all members are alive and have been accounted for.

Dogs: Yes, that includes our dogs. (They're on Instagram as kavikandrax.)

Clothing/food/shelter: The Calgaros have all three, so they're already ahead of the game.

Health in general: good.

Knees specifically: Áine barely thinks about her knees anymore. Pete hasn't mentioned how he feels about his,

but he's still running four miles every day so they can't be too bad.

Cars: Running. The one that the dogs ride in underwent a deep cleaning over the summer and now has a seat protector for the inevitable drool and pawprints during trips to Starbucks' drive-through.

Jobs: Still got 'em. Áine's employer underwent a merger and is now the Lung Cancer Research Foundation. Read about Pete's gainful employment on page 4.

Friends: If you're reading this, then you're one of them, and you've probably dealt with a garbage fire or two yourself. So you already know that while it can be dangerous and kind of stinky, if you're really resourceful, you can use the heat to keep your hands warm. And your heart. Because analogies.



Inside:

- Death-defying travels!
- Our adult children!
- Woes and pestilence!

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Calgaros defy death, nausea

Pete and Áine Calgaro cheated death many times over during their travels in 2017.

In January, they made their first-ever trip to Hawaii, levitating in a gigantic metal capsule over thousands of miles while miraculously not plummeting into the ocean below.

On the big island, they crossed miles of lava rock on foot and visited many elevated areas without mishap.

Then, in October, the Calgaros decided to visit the Grand Canyon because Áine hadn't had enough heights-induced panic attacks for a single year.

They enjoyed breathtaking views and successfully resisted the urge to follow

Pete with a memento of his vertical ascent. And descent.



This picture looks totally fake, but it's not. That's real canyon. Did you know it's a mile and a half to the bottom? Áine couldn't stop thinking about that.



Hawaii state motto — So Many Things That Could Kill You! (Runner-up — Fuel for Your Obsessive Anxiety!)



other tourists in clambering onto rocks unprotected for the perfect selfie.

Also, Pete was not attacked by the tarantula he encountered during his solitary morning exercise.

The Calgaros capped off their visit with their first and last helicopter ride. Áine was surprised and delighted to survive the experience. Pete was less delighted to lose his stomach contents during the flight, but at least there were plenty of bags available to collect this unique souvenir.

Pete and Áine are apparently risk-takers, as they are making a repeat trip to Hawaii in a few weeks. And they might even take a boat ride. With plenty of Dramamine.

Rachel enjoying her late 20s

This year marked Rachel Calgaro's official entry into her late 20s, as she celebrated her 26th birthday on July 8.

She continues to enjoy sharing her Minnesota apartment with her Swedish Vallhund, Deadpool, and working as a software engineer for King Show Games.

Rachel added several new tattoos to her collection, and has completed a half-sleeve dedicated to her favorite metal bands. She showed her ink to one of those bands, Sabaton, during a post-concert backstage encounter.

After having been in a committed relationship for most of her adult life, Rachel is embracing her independence and dating a variety of eligible young people. And she's even met some of their dogs, which is definitely a bonus.



Plagues descend upon Peter

A series of calamities were inflicted upon the youngest Calgaro this year. The struggles began when his vehicle, a 2000 Chevy Impala, suffered a dead battery. During the drive home from having the new one installed, the car's brakes failed.

It was time for a better vehicle. And time for Peter IV to learn to drive a manual transmission, all the better for his vocation as a Conveyance Officer of Yeasted Italian Flatbread.

Later in the year, Peter grew tired of solitary living and moved out of his efficiency into a 2-bedroom apartment with his former housemate, Cody. All appeared calm until one early morning in fall, when Áine's phone showed an incoming call from her son.

"Hey, can I crash there tonight?" he asked. By "tonight," of course, he meant "immediately," as his work shift had

ended at 3 AM. Áine agreed to a visit, but wondered why.

"Great, I'm right outside," he responded. "Oh, and we have fleas."



Upon learning of the infestation, Áine insisted Peter's clothes go directly into the washer and Peter into the shower. The next day, he returned with what appeared to be every piece of clothing he owned and all his towels and bed linens, packed tightly in plastic bags for laundering.

After a visit from the exterminator and some internet research, Peter was able to eradicate the tiny visitors. And the Calgaros went back to not being especially needed. (Until the Toyota's clutch went out.)

World's best visitor stays over

Pete and Áine were delighted to delay their empty nest a little longer. Gabi, who moved in with the Calgaros in August 2013, stayed with them when she started her junior year this fall studying biomedical engineering at the UW-Madison. As the photo illustrates, she and Bucky are well acquainted.



In October, Gabi's parents traveled from Vietnam to Toronto for a Pink Floyd concert. Since they were practically in the neighborhood, they made a side trip to Madison. (Yes, they're from Brazil and live in Asia.)

Gabi's dad Yasha, an airline pilot, had a temporary assignment in Pakistan, so

her mom Grazi (photo at right) stayed behind in Madison for nearly six weeks studying English and being the best houseguest you could possibly imagine.



It's not just that she has a pleasant personality and is fun to be around. She's also extremely talented in the kitchen and treated the Calgaros to her amazing home cooking.

Gabi will visit her parents in January after enjoying the holidays with her boyfriend Zeph. Then she'll be moving into an apartment on campus.



Áine is doing her best to convince Pete that flying to Hawaii is good practice for their own future travels to Vietnam.

Pete marks 25th year serving his television overlords

In 2017, Pete Calgaro celebrated his 25th anniversary in service to NBC, specifically channel 15 in Madison.

"I remember my early days at the station, when fax machines were the height of sophisticated technology, and a web site was a place where spiders had spun a lair for capturing their insect prey," the old-timer reminisced.

Nowadays, he works from a shiny new building with state-of-the-art equipment. But he still uses the same

low-tech way to commute to his job. In fact, he's been running to work for so many years that co-workers no longer stop to ask him if he needs a ride.

Pete's service to NBC15 isn't the only area where he's shown longevity. He has been the music director for Unity of Madison for nearly 12 years now. He also released his 22nd music CD this month, in conjunction with his annual concert of meditative music. In other words, Pete isn't slowing down any time soon.