

## Couple walks on water

**E**arly in 2022, Pete and Áine Calgaro experienced the miracle of walking on water, even managing to balance a stroller containing two concerned dogs during the feat.

“I can’t feel my fingers or my toes,” said Áine after venturing out onto Lake Mendota during temperatures well below freezing. “I sure hope I don’t slip on the ice and dislocate another digit.”

Pete snapped several photos of the sunset over the frozen landscape before carrying the dogs and stroller over piles of snow to get back to the car.

The feat inspired the Calgaros to investigate other ways to appreciate the many water-related activities that Wisconsin has to offer.

Áine thought it would be a great idea to sign up for a free “learn to row” class that took place in June on the same lake she and Pete conquered months earlier. She wasn’t quite prepared for how intensely the oar kicks back into the rower’s chest or for how difficult it is to actually get in and out of a scull. Despite the blow to her pride, she managed to not capsize the craft. And she developed a whole new appreciation for her son’s high school rowing team experience.

A few months later, the Calgaros decided to take a road trip to northern Wisconsin to hunt for waterfalls. Kavik and Trax

*RIGHT: Kavik and Trax perform the “stroller on water” miracle.*

*BELOW: Pete and Áine locate the first of many waterfalls during their vacation.*



joined the adventure, which meant that Pete and Áine were required to get creative in order to reach some of their destinations with a stroller in tow.

Pete naturally got as close as possible to many of the falls, even venturing behind one of them. Pete’s car had a brush with nature as well, due to Áine navigating onto a road intended only for ATVs.

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# Man boards airplane; travels safely

After two years without a single reason to take Dramamine, Pete Calgaro had two opportunities for air travel this summer.

The first was a black-tie award ceremony in Washington, DC, requiring him to get fitted for a tux which would be shipped to a pickup location at his destination.

Naturally, he found out the night before that his flight was rescheduled, leading to a stressful time on hold with the airline and a much shorter window of time before the dinner began. The excitement of riding an Uber through DC's rush hour added to the overall thrill of the event.



*The Midwest Nolte contingent.*

His second trip was a flight to Denver, CO, to join up with his mom, sisters, and selected nieces and nephews for the Nolte family reunion. The clan booked a VRBO with 10 beds, experiencing an extended sleepover that was much like vacations of childhood except with more wine. Pete returned with fond memories and a cool t-shirt. 🍷

# Badger becomes golden eagle

The Calgaros' honorary third child, Gabi, is going back to school. The UW-Madison graduate will start the physician assistant program at Marquette University in the summer of 2023.

Gabi will resign her position as a medical assistant so that she can embark on her post-graduate studies. She will rent an apartment near the university while her husband Zeph continues to work in Oshkosh. Fortunately they will be in an easy driving distance from one another, and Zeph has a cool truck to drive there.

This summer, Gabi's mom Grazi visited for several weeks and even spent some time at the Calgaro household. Gabi's dad Yasha was in Florida on business, and Gabi, Zeph & Grazi met up with him for some theme park tourism activities. It was the first time the family had been together since the Before Times. 🍷

*Gabi tells Pete & Áine the news... but she & Zeph will always be Badgers.*



# Walking on water

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The couple is now hunkering down for the winter and anticipating a major precipitation event just in time for Christmas.

They are thankful their beloved Kavik Alaska "Quasimodo" Calgaro was able to enjoy so many nature outings during the final two-and-a-half years of his life. 🍷

# Mishaps keep things interesting, checkbook balances low

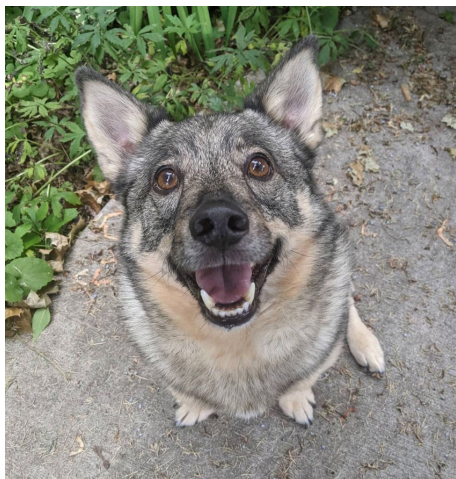
Áine Calgaro is always a little wary when she sees an incoming call from her son. On a fateful day in early August, her instinct proved correct.

Peter had been inside his workplace (Topper's Pizza) when a passer-by came in with news that a U-Haul had hit a car in the parking lot. Of course the car in question was his. Áine offered to loan her car to Peter while waiting to get an estimate. The actual repair didn't happen for about a month.

While the body work was covered by insurance, some unrelated repairs were needed as well. The Calgaros helped with the expense since Peter did not have quick access to \$3,800.

The good news is that he no longer needs to worry about his car being hit at Topper's, because he has a new, higher-paying delivery job at Milio's downtown.

Another surprise expense came up when Rachel visited Pete and Áine in October. Rachel was getting ready to embark on her journey back to Minneapolis, where she works for a fully-remote software company. While packing up, she noticed that her dog Deadpool had found a



*Someone who will never again have access to a rawhide treat. (At least not at Gramma's.)*

rawhide belonging to Trax. Soon, the rawhide was gone – and Deadpool was making choking noises.

A trip to the veterinary ER revealed that the rawhide was lodged in Deadpool's esophagus. Fortunately, the vet was able to retrieve it without surgery – and because Deadpool is priceless, the Calgaros cheerfully covered the bill.

Which was not quite as much as Peter's car, but still. 🧀



*Peter's 2003 Toyota Corolla minus part of its face. Still cheaper than a new used car.*



*Family photo with Áine's dad Sully. (He's 94!)*

# Plan to relocate additional family members to Madison underway

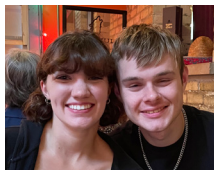
**T**he Calgaros were delighted to learn that their niece Tabitha was moving with her boyfriend Owen to an apartment in Madison, WI.

Tabitha is a graduate student at the UW-Madison, and lives a mere 2-3 blocks away from her cousin Peter.

Knowing that Peter was working as a delivery driver for Topper's, Tabitha was delighted when she spotted him in a vehicle at a distance. It was not unlike

encountering a minor celebrity in the wild.

The Calgaros hope that more nieces and/or nephews decide to see what Madison has to offer. And maybe future generations will have a new place to hold an extended family reunion. 🍷



*Tabitha & Owen at a Madison eatery.*

## Other highlights of the year 2022

### The perfect pie

Áine made her best pie ever, a flaky crust filled with delicious Door County cherries. The morning after she and Pete enjoyed the first slices with friends, she walked into the kitchen and saw that the foil on one side of the pie was loose. Then she saw a very cute set of tiny footprints on the countertop, leading away from the pie. (Later, typed into Google: *mouse walked on it safe to eat?*)

### Seniors love heavy metal

Pete and Áine enjoyed the dulcet sounds of Queensrÿche with other senior citizens on Memorial Day weekend during Madison's Brat Fest.

### Dog infirmary

While Kavik had health issues for ages, Trax appeared to enjoy the fountain of youth... until he had two back-to-back seizures in June. He hasn't seized since going on medication, but for a while the Calgaros had to carry both dogs around because Trax was adorably loopy.

### Fun with crafts

The nonprofit where Áine works (LCRF.org) introduced a butterfly theme this year, and the launch included a free downloadable booklet of butterfly crafts. Áine hadn't thought about how she was going to illustrate said crafts, and ended up spending a weekend making everything from coffee filter butterflies to yarn butterflies and baked ornaments.



### Concert time

After a significant hiatus, Pete held his *Evening of Meditative Music* (AKA *Freak Out Along With Pete as He Pulls This Thing Together*) on Dec. 16. He has continued to record music and release CDs throughout all of the shenanigans of the past two years. And he is still working on Channel 15's *Sounds of the Season* special, right up to the wire. (It airs on Christmas Eve.) Ho ho ho!