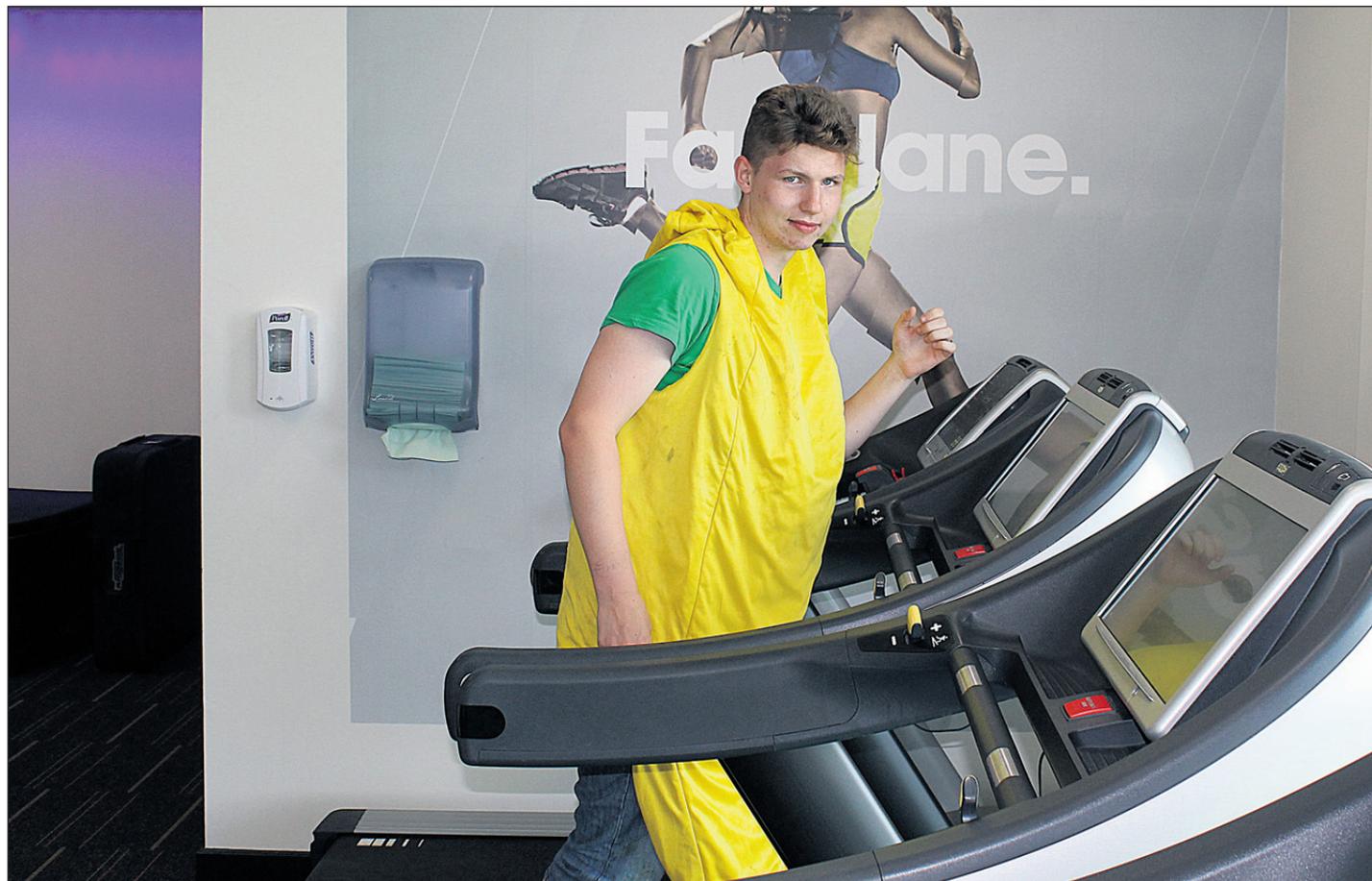


Teen told he may not walk again plans run

Challenge to thank charity that saved youngster's life after crash



Callam MacDonald, who doctors feared may never walk again after he injured in a car crash is gearing up to run 10 kilometres for the charity that saved his life. (06-07-68 ST/AP)

A teenager warned he may never walk again is gearing up to run 10 kilometres for the charity that saved his life.

Callam MacDonald suffered a brain injury in a car crash when he was just three-years-old.

Doctors feared he would never walk or talk again but Callam, now aged 18, is set to embark on the 10k run on a treadmill Selby Leisure Centre tomorrow.

He said: "The doctors thought I would never walk or talk again. Now look at me. They can't shut me up and I'm about to run 10k."

Callam was a rear seat passenger in his mum's car when another vehicle ploughed into the back of them in April 2003.

He was resuscitated by an off-duty paramedic at the scene and twice again by medics from the Yorkshire Air Ambulance as

by **ASHLEY PEMBERTON**
ashley.pemberton@selbytimes.info

he was airlifted to hospital.

The youngster spent 18 weeks in hospital and 18 months in a wheelchair once home.

Callam, who lives in Brayton with his mum and step-dad, Kim and Andrew Sledmore, added: "My family never got chance to speak to the off-duty paramedic or even find out his name.

"Yorkshire Air Ambulance saved my life. This is my chance to give something back to them as a thank you."

Callam was left with learning difficulties and underwent intensive rehabilitation to learn to walk again.

The teenager, who attends a specialist educational needs school in York, plans to undertake the challenge in a

banana suit to commemorate the charity's Yellow Yorkshire Day fundraiser.

Callam, who plans to start Selby College in September, added: "I've done quite a lot of training for this. We used to have PE options class on a Wednesday at school. I went to a local gym with a small group from my class and my teacher got me running 5k. She coached me how to breath while I'm running.

"The most I've ran before is 7k but I'm confident I can do 10k."

Sally Kempson, Callam's support worker, added: "When I started working with Callam when he was 14, he kept falling over even just walking. He had a splint on his leg at one point to keep it straight and even had to have botox injections to stop it from collapsing.

"His injury affected his

balance and core stability, but through therapy and support we've turned him into the young man we see before us."

Nanette Mellor, chief executive officer of The Brain Charity, said Callam's progress and rehabilitation is 'fantastic'.

She said: "Callam's story really is wonderful. To be told such devastating news at such a young age and to now be looking at running a 10k is fantastic."

Bob Smailes, fundraising manager for Yorkshire Air Ambulance, said: "We're absolutely delighted to receive the support from Callam, it is fantastic that the charity is so close to his heart and he is able to do something he loves and support the Yorkshire Air Ambulance at the same time."

Callam had raised over £70 in donations for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance by Wednesday.

News in brief

Bank is targeted

Police have launched an investigation after an attempted break-in at a bank. Officers were called to the NatWest branch in Bridge Street, Tadcaster, at 2am on Tuesday. Two men were seen to leave the scene in a car. Call police on 101.

Drugs bust arrests

Four people have been arrested in a drugs raid at a house in Selby. Police executed a Misuse of Drugs Act warrant at the property in Primrose Grove on Monday. A quantity of substances, believed to be Class A and B drugs, were seized. The four were arrested on suspicion of possession of drugs with intent to supply.

Power tools stolen

Power tools and jewellery have been stolen during a break-in in Eggborough. Thieves broke into the house in Kellington Lane by knocking out the lock on the patio door between 7.30am and 6.15pm on June 28. Call 101 with any information.

Partridges pinched

Thirty partridges were stolen from an outside pen in Common Lane, Burn, on Friday. Call 101.

Hunt for gate thieves

Custom-made gates have been stolen from a house in Camblesforth. The black twisted steel gates have the white rose of Yorkshire emblem on them. They were taken between 9pm on Thursday and 3.30pm on Friday.

Pupils making progress in latest SATS results

The number of primary school pupils in North Yorkshire achieving the national standard in their SATS exams has increased by seven per cent.

Provisional figures released by North Yorkshire County Council show that 59 per cent of pupils achieved the national standard or higher in the reading,

writing and maths exams combined.

In the Key Stage Two reading test, the proportion of pupils achieving the national standard increased by

over six per cent to 71 per cent.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, North Yorkshire's executive member for schools, said: "We are very proud

of these results. They are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our pupils, teaching staff and families."

No Selby district figures were available.



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