

## ‘Learning to Fly’ one frame at a time

*Brookfield Central student wins  
awards for stop-motion film*

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BROOKFIELD — Sam Slowik, a Brookfield Central student, has dabbled in film making since he was in fourth grade.

“I kept practicing and downloaded the stop-motion app. I then got a camera and got more improved equipment. My animations got better and better,” Slowik said.

Slowik had all these animations but nowhere to use them, so he created a YouTube channel and now does animation as a hobby.

The soon-to-be 15-year-old’s filmmaking skills have evolved into a stop-motion film called “Learning to Fly!” The Elmbrook School Districts holds a film festival and Slowik thought why not enter.

His film won the Best Overall award at the Elmbrook 3-Minute Film Festival this past winter, and recently caught the attention of the Crossings International Film Festival, where it not only became a finalist but also earned him an Honorable Mention and a cash prize. He also received a Gold Ticket from each judge at the Elmbrook 3-Minute Film Festival.

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At the end of “Learning to Fly,” everything is in bright colors as the rig gives the Lego minifigure a cape, thus helping him learn to fly.



Photos courtesy of Mike Slowik

Sam Slowik, a Brookfield Central student, tinkers with a Lego minifigure as he makes his stop-motion film “Learning to Fly.” He won the Best Overall award at the Elmbrook 3-Minute Film Festival this past winter, and recently caught the attention of the Crossings International Film Festival, where he not only became a finalist but also earned an Honorable Mention and a cash prize.

### Watch the ‘Learning to Fly’ film

■ The “Learning to Fly” short is a Lego stop-motion film featuring a Lego man and his friend the rig as they learn how to fly. Learning to Fly was the overall winner of the 2024 Elmbrook 3-Minute Film Festival and an Overall Selection for the Crossings Film Festival. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdiTi-7aLZA&t=151s>

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Courtesy of PrimeTime Timing

PrimeTime Timing was the race management team for this year's track and field Olympic Trials, which took place June 21-30 in Eugene, OR.

# Brookfield-based PrimeTime Timing tackles Track and Field Olympic Trials

*Race management company  
has been working towards this  
event for over a decade*

**By Bridget Dean**  
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**BROOKFIELD** — Come September, it will be 21 years since Arrowhead graduate Sean Gavigan started his full-service race management company, PrimeTime Timing. The company he created during college has been making big moves and covering increasingly more events, and just this year, his team cinched the job of the 2024 Track and Field Olympic Trials from a longtime competitor.

Gavigan taught himself how to code while working on timing and display systems for his own track and field team meets at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. Gavigan started to get contacted by the university itself, looking for his help for other athletics events. Most people in the timing industry are athletes, retired athletes or coaches. Gavigan is no exception.

Immediately following graduation, Gavigan moved his business to Brookfield, where they've been headquartered since 2005. Currently he has about 10 full-time staff in Wisconsin and business partners and staff members in Nashville.

"Our biggest goal was the Wisconsin State Track and Cross-Country meet," said Gavigan, explaining how his

company has worked its way up to covering bigger and bigger meets across the country. PrimeTime has now been the race display and management company for that state meet for "well over 10 years."

Providing timing and display services for the Olympic Trials is something he and his business partners have been working toward for over 10 years. Another timing and race management company had been providing that service to the trials for a long time, so PrimeTime had to show that their services were truly top notch.

“(During) the 2021 trials, we did athlete tracking,” said Gavigan. His team was able to show instant live biometrics, such as an athlete’s heartrate, mid-race. PrimeTime’s ability to showcase these biometrics and the speed at which they could provide data to NBC for the live broadcast impressed the host of the trials, Track-Town USA, in Eugene, OR.

Gavigan said it was “surprising” that their proposal was selected, since the other race management provider had been around for so long.

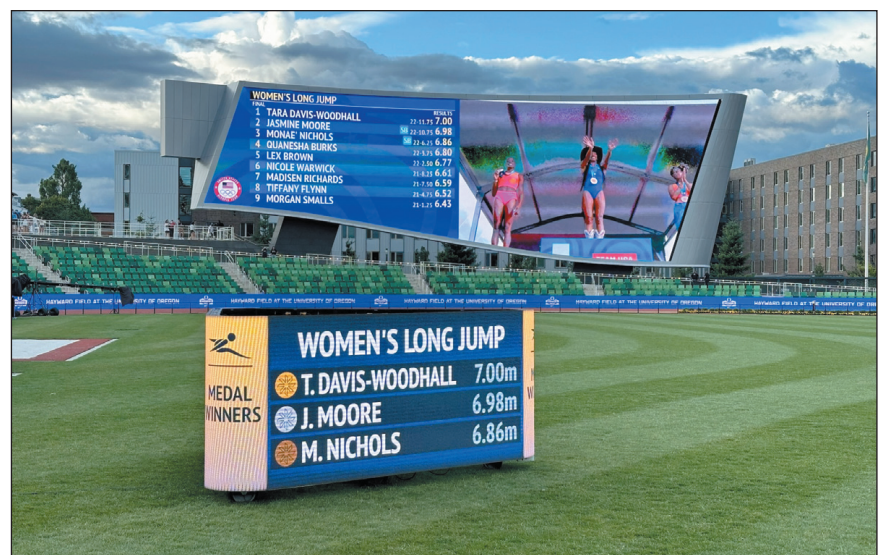
the length — 10 days. For two weeks, in June, a staff of 12 PrimeTime employees were onsite at the trials. Even still, there were events that had to be handled back in Wisconsin at the same time, such as the Tour of America's Dairyland bike races and the Creampuff 5K.

Gavigan is really proud of his staff for how smoothly everything went, especially given the amount of live broadcasting with NBC required. He said he couldn't have imagined it going any better.

What makes PrimeTime unique is how customizable their services are. They create software in-house suited to the needs of their customers, and they focus on getting live results from meets onto the scoreboard in a way that is easy to read and digest. 21 years ago, that type of online registration of scores and immediate display wasn't the industry standard.

Even with the Olympic Trials under their belt, Gavigan said PrimeTime is continuing to expand its already diverse portfolio of over 250 track and field and cross-country events they service. Their scoreboard and videoboard equipment is already all across Wisconsin. They've also been expanding into other sports, such as skiing, road races, bicycling, and gymnastics.

“As great as the big events are, we’re still very grounded in local, community-based events,” Gavigan said. He said the move back to Brookfield after college was nice; it allowed him to return to the area he grew up in. “It brought me back home sooner than I thought.”



Displays for the meet were all throughout the stadium, including on triangle-shaped display boards.



As the comprehensive display and timing manager for the track and field Olympic Trials, PrimeTime Timing used many types of displays to provide easy-to-read data at each event.



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# Brookfield East to host Skin Cancer Awareness football game

Beloved coach Jim Jacobsen died in 2017 from melanoma

**By Karen Pilarski**  
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BROOKFIELD — It’s been seven years since Jim Jacobsen, Brookfield East teacher and coach, died, but his presence and memory remain as strong as ever. Joe Wirtz, a retired Brookfield East coach, volunteers and helps with the games.

“When everyone walks on the field there is a big rock with his name and picture,” Wirtz said.

Jacobsen graduated from Brookfield East in 1996 and went on to teach and coach. Wirtz’s sons were students of the coach.

Current Brookfield East head football coach Ben Farley said he and his brother Andy, who is the principal at East, were friends with Jacobsen as kids.

“We grew up together. I’m a few years younger than him. I was always hanging out with him as a kid. We grew up and both became educators. We got to coach together. Jim was someone who was larger than life in terms of his personality and impact on people,” Farley said.

Jacobsen was a physical education teacher, track, basketball and football coach.

“He touched a lot of lives,” he said.

Ben Farley said his friend always made the games and practices even when he was struggling to walk.

“It is amazing ... his courage and his fight. He was always very positive, hilarious and charismatic,” Farley said.

He loved football, and he loved his students and athletes.

In 2016, Jacobsen, who served as the offensive coordinator, helped coach the Spartans to victory in the WIAA Division 2 state football championship game. It was the first state football championship in the school’s history and a highlight of Jacobsen’s life.

“He was a huge difference-maker and had a huge impact on the team in 2016. He left a huge legacy for us, and we try to honor his legacy by always talking about him,” Farley said.

Jacobsen was named 2017 Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Assistant

Coach of the Year.

Wirtz said one day an athletic trainer noticed a spot on the back of Jacobsen’s leg and told him to get it checked out.

“Turns out it was cancer and he had surgery. There were two games during that year where he had to call the plays from the hospital. We set up a camera feed. It was kind of complex but we ended up winning the state championship,” Wirtz said.

The cancer unfortunately came back at the start of the next season.

Jacobsen died on Dec. 23, 2017.

**Bringing awareness**

Last year, the school created a skin cancer awareness program.

“We aren’t raising money to donate for medical research or anything like that. We are making an effort to make people aware of what to watch for,” Wirtz said.

Farley said they spoke with physicians who gave them educational material for students.

“It was a really cool event. All of Jim’s family came to the event,” Farley said.

During the upcoming season’s first home game, Brookfield East players will wear black, which is the color that represents skin cancer awareness.

Wirtz said Brookfield Mayor Steve Ponto will be issuing a proclamation.

Northwestern Mutual has put money towards the skin cancer awareness program, along with Walgreens and Neutrogena.

“Neutrogena has the best sunscreen out there for athletes. It is 70 SPF. I bought some on my own and started using it. They made a donation towards our team. They don’t even know it yet,” Wirtz said.

Farley said the goal of this is to learn about skin cancer and how to keep yourself protected.

“We want to get that information out there. You know coaches and players are out in the sun for all these practices for hours and hours. The first goal is knowledge and the second is about Jim’s impact and talking about him as a man, coach and leader,” Farley said.

The Skin Cancer Awareness game will be held on at 7 p.m. on Sept. 6 at Brookfield East against Marquette University High School.

**Film**  
From Page 1

“I was surprised and wasn’t expecting to get a Gold Ticket from every single judge,” Slowik said.

To make “Learning to Fly,” Slowik animated it at 15 frames per second using his laptop and camera. When it came to the storyline, the teen wanted something that was inspiring and uplifting. He also wanted to have a friend in the film.

“You can’t do everything on your own, you need help. That just kind of came into my head. It got sorted out while I was animating,” he said.

The camera rig is normally edited out but Slowik decided to use it as the friend.

“The Lego and the rig were friends and the rig helped him out along the way. I used another rig which I edited out to show him floating through the air,” he said.

The film starts in black and white when a Lego minifigure notices a flying bird. A nearby camera rig offers assistance to the minifigure. The rig lifts him up and simulates flying and then the minifigure climbs blocks and tries to fly only to fall down. Eventually the rig gives the minifigure a cape which allows him to swoop and glide through the air. The end of the film is in bright color.

The film took about eight weeks to complete and a total of 1,688 photos. Slowik said he was inspired by silent films to superheroes and cartoons.

**Learning to animate**

Mike and Marna Slowik, Sam’s parents, are encouraging their son to enter more film festivals. During the Elmbrook Film Festi-

val the judges highly recommended that Sam submit his film to as many festivals as he could.

“They were pretty blown away by it. The Gold Ticket is the highest price you could get. There is a website called <https://film-freeway.com/> where you upload your film and a description. It lists thousands and thousands of film festivals from local to international. Short film, animation, feature films,” Mike said.

There are some that have fees so the Slowik family put a limit on what they would spend. There are festivals where there are no prizes such as the Chicago Film Festival. More valuable than a prize is feedback, during which the festival members watch the films and offer critiques.

“I think it is cool. Marna and myself are both from fine arts backgrounds. I currently do graphic design and work with videographers. I’ve done photography and stuff like that. He started young and it was something he enjoyed doing and had the patience,” Mike Slowik said.

Sam Slowik encourages aspiring filmmakers to watch movies to see how the film was shot. Some of the filmmaking techniques he learned he taught himself. In fall when he starts his sophomore year, Slowik is taking a film production course.

“I hope to make better stories and better shots of angles and pictures,” he said. In order to be successful in filmmaking, Sam said you need to have a lot of patience.

“Practice makes perfect and I’ve been doing this for a long time,” he said.

He also hopes to enter new projects into film festivals.

“I have a couple of ideas in my head that I could work out,” Sam said.

Currently filmmaking is just a hobby, but if he earns a few scholarships or a paid gig, he would be open to looking into it as a career.



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# RNC successful for Waukesha-based security consultant Secure Resources Unlimited

## Brian Dorow is CEO of SRU; open to working with DNC

**By Karen Pilarski**  
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WAUKESHA — The Republican National Convention last month was a whirlwind for Secure Resources Unlimited (SRU) CEO Brian Dorow. The RNC collaborated with state and local law enforcement, as well as private security specialists including SRU.

SRU, an emergency management consulting service business in Waukesha, offers a team of security experts with decades of law enforcement expertise. A third of the SRU workforce is made up of current or former law enforcement from local, state and federal levels.

“We are finishing up. We will be completely finished by 9 a.m. Saturday (July 20). We still have a few operations that are going on just to make sure we cover the hotels and parking structures as delegates and people leave Milwaukee,” Dorow said.

Dorow’s entire security operation covered 71 posts from the Milwaukee area to Madison, Lake Geneva, Racine and back to Milwaukee. He called it a “tremendous success.”

“I would walk up to people and hear unsolicited that the attendees felt very safe and had the peace of mind with the high security and law enforcement presence,” Dorow said.

There were only minor incidents that Dorow’s team came across with a few arrests of non-RNC participants.

“The RNC was a very safe event,” he said.

Ohio police officers in Wisconsin for the RNC shot and killed a man who was wielding two knives near the convention on July 16. Five members of the Columbus Police Department (Ohio) fired on the man, who had a knife in each hand, refused police commands and charged at an unarmed man before police fired. Two knives were recovered from the scene, according to Milwaukee Police Chief Jeffrey Norman.

Dorow said people were not concerned about their safety after the incident.

“It had nothing to do with the RNC. When I was driving home there was a unit stationed on 27th and Wisconsin. The RNC was on 6th and Wisconsin so you had different areas and checkpoints and extra



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officers. It had nothing to do with the RNC and wasn’t talked about,” he said.

He added it was a horrible situation but had no impact on the RNC.

From a security and Dorow’s team’s perspective, they had to pivot in the wake of the assassination attempt at former President Donald Trump’s July 13th rally in Pennsylvania. One person was killed and others were injured including Trump.

“What took place could be a blueprint for future large-scale events. There is absolutely no doubt,” he said.

**Lessons learned**

An important lesson the security team learned was to be flexible as staff could be moved around for different reasons.

“Different things happened each day that wasn’t a part of our initial plan. We had to adapt. You had the movement of so many dignitaries that are coming into your area of operation. Things got closed, traffic got stopped and they were calling for more resources because people were moving in a different direction,” Dorow said.

Another lesson was the need to be fluid and open to improvements.

“A security plan is only as good as its last day. When people are pivoting and adding things, the security plan changes. From our company perspective, I had one supervisor going around in the spirit of continuous improvement to check on every one of our venues every single day. We continuously evaluated our operation. Every single day. And made changes by the end of the night so we were ready for the next morning,” Dorow said.

Dorow believes the RNC was the largest security operation in the history of Wisconsin. While there is the EAA and Summerfest, at no time have they brought in thousands of police officers and a massive closing of a certain area over the course of 14 days.

“This was very professional, the RNC did a great job and made improvements each day,” he said.

Dorow said while he hasn’t been invited yet, his team is open to working with the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, if asked.



Wisconsin alternate Barbara Finger brought some Wisconsin pride to the RNC floor with her cheesehead.

## Dressing up for the RNC



Texas delegate David Teuscher brings a hat with him to political conventions to collect signatures on. He began the tradition at the 2004 RNC.



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