

From the Sheriff Wayne County Sheriff Rob Milby

Sheriff Milby sees a lot at the southern border

Last week, I gave you the background as to how I wound up at the southern border of our country. My self-appointed recon mission was to verify what was happening, and to see what effect this all had on Wayne County, if any. It wasn't so much what I saw that left impressions on me, but what I heard as I spoke to those on the front line of this crisis, our Sheriffs and our Border Patrol Officers. The first observation was an easy one. There is an extreme lack of officers enforcing our borders. How does anyone expect to handle thousands upon thousands of border crossers without the manpower to do so? Every year, even though the encounters were driving up, the manpower to handle it was not. At the southwestern border in 2023, there were nearly 2.5 million encounters. This year as of August, there have already been over 2 million. The message is pretty clear, that when there is so much time and attention being given to apprehensions, BP is not able to do the interdiction work necessary to keep the drugs out. The works that cause nearly 300 overdose deaths per day in our country, per the CDC, is mostly due to fentanyl. Wayne County is included in those numbers. The price of fentanyl is at an all-time low, which means that PLENTY of supply is getting across our borders. Most of the activity is due to the Mexican Cartels, and it is all about the drug trade. The more money they can raise, the more drugs they can buy, and the more drugs they can sell. Human smuggling at our borders is what is driving it. Human trafficking is also used to pay for the passage. Debt to those traffickers is what brings the violence, which is the leverage used for finances. The cartel can get you across, but you are going to owe quite a bit, and if you don't pay, they will find you or your family, and collect either in cash, or in pain.

One of our southern sheriffs showed me the piles of identification cards that he has collected from out of the sand and garbage that is left behind by those seeking a new start in the US. Those identifications were from all over the world. One had even belonged to a Peruvian police officer. The identification is necessary to go to work in Mexico, as I learned. It is required to make the money needed to pay the cartel for the trip. Once a crosser gets to the US, that person needs to get rid of their i.d. and acquire a new one to start a new life in the US. Those credentials are often sold through the dark web and already belong to someone else. Identity theft is everywhere.

My tour guide Border Patrol brothers at the Yuma sector informed me that BP has stopped 500 gang members from getting into the country. How many have gotten through undetected?

We drove for miles, and what we saw was endless desert-like conditions that were certainly not conducive to daytime border crossings. Every day that week was 115 degrees outside, with no shade and seemingly no place to seek shelter, yet they come. The wall is in no way complete, with piles of fencing that lies on the ground, unable to be used for its original purpose, because the building stopped. Then I saw where the wall stopped, and what began was a seven-mile expanse of Quechan Indian land, where the tribe does not want a fence. The tribe is ok with the Border Patrol doing its job, but it does not want the large metal fence. What marks the border at that point, is a fence much like the split rail fence that is built at the Joseph Smith Farm in Palmyra, which is keeping no one back. On the north side of the dirt road we drove, were fields. Irrigation canals and fields of crops. Yuma is the sunniest city in America. 90% of the country's leafy green vegetables are grown here. It is the number one source of income in Yuma. But not once people who are running for god knows where, come across, exhausted, and cross those canals and stop to rest in those fields. How many times have you heard of lettuce, or spinach recalls due to listeria, salmonella, or e-coli? Don't blame the messenger.

And then there are the kids. In May of 2021, someone announced that there would be special considerations given to families at our processing centers, which would speed up the process. I am told by those who live it, that an-

nouncement led to the trafficking of children for couples to borrow for that expedited process. It is my understanding that many children are recycled for this purpose, and many others are given to the sex trafficking industries. Children are not followed up on, and many thousands of them are unaccounted for. All for cartel financial gain.

The cartels are even recruiting our youth to further their trade. Teens and young adults are being hired through social media to pick up and deliver people from the border area, at a very good rate. They are taught to run from the police, 'because police have chase policies, and they will eventually give up.' This practice is seeing some per- ish in the attempt to outrun law enforcement.

At the end of my tour, we stopped at the Yuma processing facility. A secure facility that spanned over 200,000 square feet. Being that it belongs to the federal government, they are off of the public grid for utilities. The entire center is run off of diesel generators. At the time of my visit, there were about 1,000 in the midst of processing, where they are not to be there for more than ten days, and then if there is no reason to immediately expel them, they are given a court date, now out past 2030, to continue processing. Food and water is always available, as is anything else that is needed. Television, Showers, medical supplies, etc. are all on hand. The only people that were not free to move about at there leisure, were those who were medically quarantined. Yes, Polio and Tuberculosis are two of the things that are being quarantined at this facility. While I was impressed with the facility, and remarked how we don't take care of our DSS folks this well, I was hit with the cost. 500,000.00 per day. There are 7 such facilities on our southern border. You do that math, and tell me that it doesn't effect Wayne County.

I don't mean to digress, but one of my most memorable experiences as a Wayne County Deputy, was my time spent at NYC in response to the towers. I was assigned to assist in the recovery effort of biological material as a database was being created for known victim comparison. In seeing the devastation at ground zero, I learned that it came at the hands of terrorists who carried out their plot over quite some time. I saw the chaos that it caused to so many. I have also seen the uncut version of events that happened on October 7, 2023, presented by an Israeli General. The terrorists that struck in Gaza utilized Go Pros to document their carnage. The unprovoked murders that occurred that day were designed to prey upon those who could not defend themselves. October 7th was a three-year plan that was carried out with precision. The National Sheriff's Association sent a fact-finding committee to the Gaza Strip shortly after the massacre. We were given apologies from those who were experiencing loss, grief and disruption. We were told that those who mean to do them harm, also mean to do us harm, and that they are in our country. They have crossed our borders and are here. You see, I am not looking at this part of our border crisis as an immigration issue. I look at it from a counter terrorism point of view. Without the controlled vetting of people coming into the country, how will we know when we are facing our enemies. We will not. Our borders have been open for too long. All we can do at this point it to do better. What are we doing to keep our own land safe?

On the northern border, for Fiscal Year 2024, there are over 167,000 encounters. 78 percent of those encounters are single adults and 22 percent are family units. The busiest areas are Buffalo, Seattle, Boston, Swanton, and Detroit. Two of those five, include all of our NY State international border. You have heard the recent murder of the Irondequoit family, by border crossers.

St. Lawrence County just arrested the 7th most wanted man in Canada, who came across the northern border. Wayne County has certainly been affected by the crisis too. In 2018, Selena Calderon and her infant son who were murdered in Sodus, by someone who had been deported twice. Selena and her baby were not his first murder. Let's pray they were his last. There are countless other stories out there, none of which make news. I give these examples because they occurred in different places in counties that share the border. Our Department of Homeland Security recently assessed our threat level, and it remains high. Amid the ever-growing conflict in the middle-east, and our elections next month,



Sheriff Milby and Sheriff Kieran Donohue, National Sheriff's Association President. Both are members of the National Sheriff's Association Border Security Committee. They are standing on the Southern Border

it will remain high. In September, a 20-year-old Toronto resident was arrested in Quebec near the US Border as he was allegedly planning to carry out a terrorist attack targeting Jews in NYC on Oct. 7 of this year. One of his charges was for attempting to enter the US unlawfully. This goes hand in hand with a crisis at our NY border. Sheriff Ron Engel, St. Lawrence County, has a problem. He is inundated with calls from his county residents that are being overrun on their properties due to those who are not checking in at the international line. He is looking for help to address this issue.

As my new education has taught me, we have a problem that is being disguised as a humanitarian issue. We have a drug trade that is fueled by cartels that smuggle people into this country, who will get a discounted rate, if they bring in drugs also. This is being presented to us that the asylum seekers are simply refugees seeking the American Dream. That trade is also allowing those who wish to do us harm passage into this country, under that same humanitarian cloak. There is a difference between immigration and criminal activity.

One of my original concerns was that some would not be able to see the difference between the two. Now, to me, it could not be any more glaring to even the untrained eye. It has been said before, that in the medical profession in the US, doctors treat the symptoms and not the root of the problem.....is this any different?

We throw millions of dollars in grant money to law enforcement to combat the opioid epidemic, to fight

drugs. Shouldn't we be going after the source? Why isn't the vast information that we have available to local law enforcement, through the DMV, allowed to be shared with Federal Employees? One of our largest databases, the Department of Motor Vehicles, which now has information about countless individuals that have non-driver ID is forbidden by state law to be shared. That is designed to handcuff Border Patrol from doing its job. I said it earlier, and I will reiterate, "we need to do better."

I have thrown an awful lot out there to digest. Go ahead, check out the information. It is out there for you to find. I don't expect for people to blindly believe everything I have divulged, but I am here to tell you that I will be working to do what I can to affect change and at the very least, keep people informed. I will work with my brother/sister Sheriffs to see that we all are called to task when it comes to safety and security of our land and our way of life. Obviously, we have a lot to do.

I have spoken with our Senator, our Assemblyman, and our Congresswoman about these issues. I have spoken with the New York State Sheriff's Association, and all of our New York State Sheriffs. The Association has agreed to form a Northern Border Security Committee. I have been asked to chair that committee. It will be my pleasure. I intend to extend that committee to neighboring states, because collectively we can get more results than if we attempt to work in silos.

That work, begins with getting the word out.

Miscellaneous Arrests

On Wednesday (10/9) **Malachi S. Bovee**, age 30, of Ridge Road in the Town of Williamson was arrested for Violation of Probation on an original conviction and sentencing from a Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree.

He was taken to the Wayne County Jail for CAP Court arraignment and released on his own recognizance to appear in Williamson Town Court on November 13th.

On Thursday, October 10th, the Newark Police Department arrested

Linton Robinson, age 47, of 405 Mason Street in Newark for Assault in the Second Degree at the municipal building when he was reporting for his weekly parole.

On September 7th, at 165 Driving Park Circle, Robinson caused physical injury to the victim with a kitchen knife. The victim sustained multiple stab and laceration wounds and was transported to the hospital for the injuries.

Robinson was transported to the Wayne County Jail for CAP Court arraignment and released to appear in Newark Village Court.



Miscellaneous Arrests

On Thursday (10/13) at 3:03 p.m. Newark Village Police reported the arrest of **Jessica M. Alamond**, age 36, from Blue Cut Road in Newark for Failure to Appear on a August 6th charge for Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

The arrest stemmed from an incident where a three-year-old child was found wandering in the road.

Alamond was taken to the Wayne County Jail for CAP Court arraignment and released to appear in Newark Village Court.



Theft Arrests

On Thursday (9/10) **Naja A. Thomas**, age 33, of 1626 Butternut Street in Syracuse was arrested by State Police out of Williamson for one count of Petit Larceny.

Thomas was taken to the Wayne County Jail for CAP Court arraignment and released to appear in Williamson Town Court on October 23rd.



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