

## Report: Local Officials Hushed Up Abuse Cases

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Again and again, decade after decade, an array of authorities — police chiefs, prosecutors, pastors and local Boy Scout leaders among them — quietly shielded scoutmasters and others accused of molesting children, a newly opened trove of confidential papers shows.

At the time, those authorities justified their actions as necessary to protect the good name and good works of Scouting, a pillar of 20th century America. But as detailed in 14,500 pages of secret “perversion files” released Thursday by order of the Oregon Supreme Court, their maneuvers allowed sexual predators to go free while victims suffered in silence.

The files are a window on a much larger collection of documents the Boy Scouts of America began collecting soon after their founding in 1910. The files, kept at Boy Scout headquarters in Texas, consist of memos from local and national Scout executives, handwritten letters from victims and their parents and newspaper clippings about legal cases. The files contain details about proven molesters, but also unsubstantiated allegations.

The allegations stretch across the country and to military bases overseas, from a small town in the Adirondacks to downtown Los Angeles.

At the news conference Thursday, Portland attorney Kelly Clark blasted the Boy Scouts for their continuing legal battles to try to keep the full trove of files secret.

## Airstrikes In Northern Syria Kill At Least 43

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian warplanes hammered a strategic city captured by rebels, leaving behind scenes of carnage captured Thursday on amateur videos that showed a man holding up two child-sized legs not connected to a body and another carrying a dismembered arm.

Activists said airstrikes over the past two days on opposition targets across Syria’s north have killed at least 43 people.

The city of Maaret al-Numan, located strategically on a major north-south highway connecting Aleppo and Damascus, was captured by rebels last week and there has been heavy fighting around it ever since. Rebel brigades from the surrounding area have poured in to defend the town. Online videos have shown them firing mortars at regime troops, and they claimed to have shot down a government helicopter on Wednesday.

Since it was captured a week ago, the city in northern Idlib province and its surroundings have been the focus of one of the heaviest air bombardments since President Bashar Assad’s military first unleashed its air force against rebels over the summer.

Local activists in the city say warplanes are continuously overhead, and entire villages are largely deserted and peppered with destroyed homes.

## U.S. Sees Potential For Wider Afghan Network

AB BAND, Afghanistan (AP) — Fed up with the Taliban closing their schools and committing other acts of oppression, men in a village about 100 miles south of Kabul took up arms late last spring and chased out the insurgents with no help from the Afghan government or U.S. military.

Small-scale revolts in recent months like the one in Kunsaf, mostly along a stretch of desert south of the Afghan capital, indicate bits of a grass-roots, do-it-yourself anti-insurgency that the U.S. hopes Afghan authorities can transform into a wider movement. Perhaps it can undercut the Taliban in areas they still dominate after 11 years of war with the United States and NATO allies.

The effort in Ghazni Province looks like a long shot. The villagers don’t readily embrace any outside authority, be it the Taliban, the U.S. or the Afghan government.

American officials nonetheless are quietly nurturing the trend, hoping it might become a game changer, or at least a new roadblock for the Taliban. At the same time, they are adamant that if anyone can convince the villagers to side with the Afghan government, it’s the Afghans — not the Americans.

“If we went out there and talked to them we would taint these groups and it would backfire,” said Army Brig. Gen. John Charlton, the senior American adviser to the Afghan military in provinces along the southern approaches to Kabul.

## Gallup: 3.4 Percent Of U.S. Adults Are LGBT

NEW YORK (AP) — A new Gallup survey, touted as the largest of its kind, estimates that 3.4 percent of American adults identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The findings, released Thursday, were based on interviews with more than 121,000 people. Gallup said it is the largest study ever aimed at calculating the nation’s LGBT population.

The report’s lead author, demographer Gary Gates of the UCLA School of Law’s Williams Institute, said he hoped the findings would help puncture some stereotypes about gays and lesbians while illustrating the diversity of their community.

“Contemporary media often think of LGBT people as disproportionately white, male, urban and pretty wealthy,” he said. “But this data reveals that relative to the general population, the LGBT population has a larger proportion of nonwhite people and clearly is not overly wealthy.”

According to the survey, which was conducted between June and September, 4.6 percent of African-Americans identify as LGBT, 4 percent of Hispanics, 4.3 percent of Asians and 3.2 percent of whites. Overall, a third of those identifying as LGBT are nonwhite, the report said.

## Man Convicted Of Aiding Terrorist Recruit

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A Minneapolis man accused of helping send young men through a terrorist pipeline from Minnesota to Somalia was convicted Thursday on all five terrorism-related charges he faced, including one that could land him in prison for life.

The jury returned its verdict against Mahamud Said Omar after deliberating for about eight hours over two days. Chief U.S. District Judge Michael Davis did not set a sentencing date.

Omar, 46, nodded quietly as an interpreter gave him the bad news. As he was being led from the courtroom, he held up his hands and smiled at his brothers and other supporters of his in the courtroom gallery.

One of his defense attorneys, Jon Hopeman, said outside of court afterward that Omar will appeal the verdict. He said he plans to scrutinize secretly recorded wiretaps of conversations involving Omar that weren’t made available to the defense team.

Omar, a mosque janitor, was the first man to stand trial in the government’s investigation into what it says was the recruitment of more than 20 men who have left Minnesota since 2007 to join al-Shabab, a U.S.-designated terrorist group linked to al-Qaida that’s blamed for much of the violence that has plagued the East African country.

## Depiction Of Beirut In TV Series Irks Some

BEIRUT (AP) — Militants carrying assault weapons clear the area around a street, shouting in Arabic for people to get out of the way. A jeep pulls up: The world’s No. 1 jihadi has arrived for a meeting with top Hezbollah commanders. On rooftops, U.S. snipers crouch unseen, the kingpin in their crosshairs at last.

The scene, from a recent episode of the hit U.S. Showtime series “Homeland,” is supposed to be Beirut. But it is really in Israel, a country similar enough in some areas to stand in for Lebanon, yet a world away in most other respects.

The show about Arab terrorists and American turncoats has inadvertently become a tale of two cities. Some Beirutis are angry because the depiction of their city as swarming with militiamen is misleading and because they see Israel as the enemy. And in Israel, some are peeved that Haifa and even Tel Aviv — a self-styled nightlife capital and high-tech hub — apparently appear, to outsiders at least, to be Middle Eastern after all.

Lebanese Tourism Minister Fadi Abboud told The Associated Press on Thursday that he’s so upset about the portrayal of Beirut that he’s considering a lawsuit.

“The information minister is studying media laws to see what can be done,” he said.

# DUST TO DUST



Dust obscures the Wichita, Kan., skyline as strong winds whipped through south-central Kansas Thursday. I-35 near the Oklahoma border was closed due to the dust and numerous accidents.

BO RADER/WICHITA EAGLE/MCT

## Decision 2012

# Obama Defends Libya Response

BY NEDRA PICKLER AND JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Barack Obama on Thursday rejected criticism that his administration has offered a confused response to the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya, an accusation made repeatedly by Republican challenger Mitt Romney in their campaign for the White House. Of any breakdown that might have led to the killing of four Americans, Obama declared: “We’re going to fix it.”

On a campaign day where the politics of comedy were to flavor the presidential race, Comedy Central host Jon Stewart got serious in pressing Obama over the government’s changing explanation about the Sept. 11 attacks in Benghazi. When Stewart suggested that even Obama would concede his administration’s coordination and communication had not been “optimal,” Obama said: “If four Americans get killed, it’s not optimal. We’re going to fix it. All of it.”

Romney has pointedly questioned Obama’s handling of the matter and his honesty about it to voters. Those accusations led to the fiercest conflict of the presidential debate on Tuesday and will surely come to the fore again on Monday in the campaign’s final debate.

Appearing in a taping of Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show,” Obama insisted information was shared with the American people as it came in. The attack is under investigation, Obama said, and “the picture eventually gets filled in.”



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Ocala, Fla., before Biden delivered his comments, accused Obama of sending a divisive message.

“He’s basically trying to disqualify his opponent with a sea of negativity,” Ryan said. “He’s trying to divide this country, pitting people against each other. He’s trying to win this election by default. You know what? We’re not going to let him get away with that.”

The sharpness of the barbs is a reflection of just how tight the race is 19 days out. Hard campaign decisions are being made, state by state.

Romney aides said Thursday that no staff had been dispatched to Michigan or Pennsylvania, where they once suggested he would compete aggressively but has not.

The bickering between campaigns was sup-

The exchange came on a day when Vice President Joe Biden compared the policies of Romney’s running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, to a gun pointed at Americans, and after Romney’s son said he was tempted to “take a swing” at Obama when the Democrat questions the GOP candidate’s honesty.

Ryan, speaking at a campaign stop in

posed to take a break Thursday night as both candidates address the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner, a white-tie gala at New York City’s Waldorf Astoria Hotel that has been a required stop for politicians since the end of World War II.

The evening’s political dinner is named for the four-term Democratic governor of New York who lost the 1928 presidential race to Republican Herbert Hoover. Smith was the first Catholic to run for president and the dinner named for him is organized by the Catholic Archdiocese of New York for the benefit of needy children.

In keeping with tradition, both candidates prepared lighthearted remarks for the event. That was also the case four years ago when Obama and GOP nominee John McCain poked fun at themselves and each other just a day after an intense presidential debate at Hofstra University on Long Island.

As in 2008, this year’s dinner follows a confrontational debate, also at Hofstra, lending an air of drama to the pivot from acrimony to humor.

Democrats are pushing the accusation that Romney is being dishonest, taking up Obama’s refrain since Tuesday’s debate that the GOP nominee is offering “a sketchy deal.”

“I don’t think they were just sketchy,” Biden said at a rally in Las Vegas. “I think they were Etch-a-Sketchy.”

Obama and Biden are to campaign together next Tuesday in Ohio after Monday night’s final debate.

# Sandusky Asks Judge To Overturn Convictions

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP) — Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky asked a judge on Thursday to overturn his child sexual abuse convictions and grant him a new trial, claiming his lawyers lacked sufficient time to prepare and the statute of limitations for some charges had expired.

Sandusky’s lawyers made the filing at the courthouse in Bellefonte where he was sentenced two weeks ago to 30 to 60 years in prison after being convicted of abusing 10 boys, some on Penn State’s campus in State College.

“The defendant submits the court’s sentence was excessive and tantamount ... to a life sentence, which the defendant submits is in violation of his rights,” they wrote.

The 31-page set of motions, technically not appeals because they were filed with the trial

judge, cover a wide range of assertions, including insufficient evidence, improper use of hearsay testimony and erroneous rulings from the bench.

More than a third of the document explores ways Sandusky believes the rapid pace of the case violated his right to due process of law, as he went from arrest to trial in just over seven months. His lawyers said they were swamped by documents from prosecutors, they lacked time to interview possible witnesses and an expert and two assistants were not available at trial.

The document said Judge John Cleland ruled improperly concerning the use of a computer-generated drawing of an accuser and issued incorrect jury instructions. It also raised issues about prosecutors’ closing argument, the vagueness of the charges, the sequestration of jurors and the amount of restitution ordered.

A spokesman for the attorney general’s office said the Sandusky filing was under review.

Sandusky remains in the county jail, awaiting a transfer to a state prison. Eight young men testified against him in June, describing a range of abuse they said included fondling and oral and anal sex when they were boys.

Sandusky didn’t testify at his trial but has consistently maintained his innocence in interviews and at sentencing.

Also Thursday, People magazine said an accuser identified in court papers as Victim 1, whose claims of being abused by Sandusky began the investigation in late 2008 and who testified against him at trial, gave an interview in which he spoke out publicly by name for the first time.



## Invest in South Dakota’s Newest Value Added Agricultural Business!

South Dakota Pulse Processors is hosting investment presentations for South Dakota residents to learn more about a South Dakotan owned pulse (field peas, lentils & chickpeas) processing plant, planned for Harrold, SD. The meeting will provide information regarding the scope of the project as well as the investment opportunity to area producers and other South Dakota investors.

This project would provide for the first pulse processing facility in South Dakota, which will help provide additional crop rotation options for area producers. The plant will have the capability to process various pulse crops into finished product, both ready for export and packaged and ready for retail sale.

Meetings will be held from Oct. 23 to Oct 25th. Please visit our website at [www.sdpulseprocessors.com](http://www.sdpulseprocessors.com) or call 605-582-6706 for more information.

| Presentations will be held: |         |  |             |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|-------------|
| Date                        | Time    | Location   | Community   |
| Oct. 23                     | 2:00 pm | Kelly’s Inn - 1607 E Highway 50 -                | Yankton     |
| Oct. 23                     | 2:00 pm | Dakota Prairie Playhouse – 820 N. Washington     | Madison     |
| Oct. 24                     | 7:00 pm | Best Western Ramkota - 1901 9th Ave SW           | Watertown   |
| Oct. 24                     | 7:00 pm | Best Western Ramkota - 3200 W. Maple St.         | Sioux Falls |
| Oct. 25                     | 2:00 pm | Highland’s Conference Center - 2000 Highland Way | Mitchell    |
| Oct. 25                     | 7:00 pm | Riverside AmericInn - 312 Island Dr.             | Ft. Pierre  |

You should read the prospectus carefully before investing. Investments will only be accepted in accordance with the terms of a written prospectus that will be distributed at the meeting. All investments involve risk. This offer is only available to South Dakota residents.

**This investment is open to everyone who is a SD resident and meets the requirements in the prospectus. It does not require the investor to be a producer or deliver pulse crops to the plant!**