

# Los Angeles Times

\$1.50 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER 80 PAGES © 2013 WST SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013 latimes.com

## Scout officials endorse dual tack on gays

BY JASON FELCH AND KIM CHRISTENSEN

Top officials of the Boy Scouts of America have unanimously recommended allowing gay boys into the ranks of one of the nation's oldest and most traditional youth groups while continuing to exclude homosexual adults as leaders.

Scouting's executive committee described the proposal as an effort to acknowledge changes in society while respecting the religious organizations that sponsor many Scout troops across the country. It also aims to move the organization beyond a controversy that has rocked its foundation in the last several months.

"We believe the BSA can no longer sacrifice its mission, or the youth served by the movement, by allowing the organization to be consumed by a single, controversial, and unresolved societal issue," National President Wayne Perry said in a statement.

The recommendation is set for a vote at the Scouts' 1,400-member national council meeting in May.

Though a dramatic shift from the Scouts' outright ban on gays, the proposal left many on both sides of the debate unsatisfied. It comes after months of intense pressure inside and outside the organization, whose leadership has sent mixed signals on the issue. On Friday, some who have pushed for change were no happier than those who want to keep the status quo.

"If this is what the proposal is, I think it's trash," said Howard Menzer, 76, a longtime leader who left Scouting in 1999 to protest [See Scouts, A16]

## In Texas, mourning those on front lines of blast

BY JOHN M. GLIONNA, CINDY CARCAMO AND RICK ROJAS

WEST, Texas — Residents here know the code of sirens, the language of a small-town Texas fire department.

As the big fire trucks lumber along, one blast means they're heading to a small blaze; two means a fire drill or meeting. Then things get serious: Three blasts signify major structural damage; four that a person is trapped inside a vehicle, and nine blasts warn of a tornado.

This week, the volunteers in the 29-member department suited up and raced to the scene of danger once again. And five never came back.

"They spent hours of their free time preparing for this crisis," said Lisa Muska, wife of Mayor Tommy Muska. "And whenever that fire siren sounded, all you had to do was look out the window to see them running from their jobs, hopping on those trucks and rushing off to fight that fire."

On Wednesday night, as they responded to a fire at a fertilizer plant, an explosion tore through the complex and leveled a large swath of this town of 2,800 residents.

At least 14 were dead and more than 160 injured, authorities said. [See Texas, A15]

# Boston siege is over



DARREN MCCOLLESTER Getty Images

Brothers suspected in bombing appeared alienated from the U.S. despite years in adoptive country.

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISCHE, SHASHANK BENGALI AND MATEA GOLD

BOSTON — During their decade in the United States, the two brothers suspected in the Boston Marathon bombings had acquired many of the preoccupations of young American men — cars, sports, social media.

But Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, whose family fled Russia's troubled Caucasus region, showed signs of alienation from the country that had embraced them as refugees.

"I don't have a single American friend, I don't understand them," Tamerlan said, as reported in an online photo essay that shows him training for a boxing competition that he hoped would lead to a place on the U.S. Olympic team and naturalized citizenship.

Their uncle, Ruslan Tsarni, said he hadn't seen them for eight years but had never known them to harbor ill will against the United States. He said that he "never, ever would imagine that somehow the children of my brother would be associated" with Monday's bombings, which left three people dead and more than 170 injured.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed early Friday in a confrontation with police and police said his younger brother was taken into custody Friday night. Asked what he thought might have motivated them to set off bombs, their uncle said, "Being losers, hatred to those who were able to settle [See Suspects, A11]

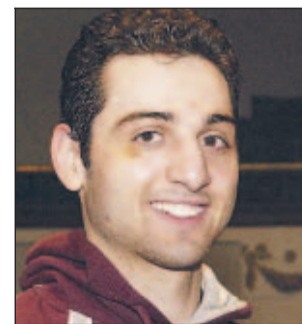


CHARLES KRUPA Getty Images



FBI

**DZHOKHAR TSARNAEV**, 19, was captured by authorities Friday night.



JULIA MALAKIE Lowell Sun

**TAMERLAN TSARNAEV**, 26, was killed in a confrontation with police early Friday.

## MASSIVE MANHUNT

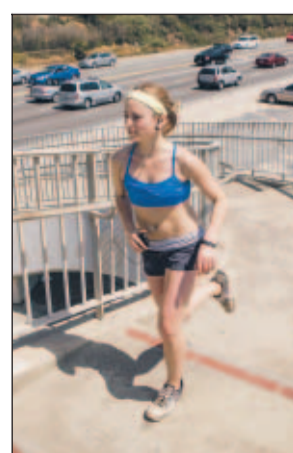
A day that began with a firefight between police and two suspects in Monday's Boston Marathon bombings — leaving one of them dead — ended late Friday when, police said, the second was cornered and taken into custody in Watertown, Mass. Above, heavily armed police patrol a Watertown neighborhood. At top, officers evacuate residents in the neighborhood where the second suspect, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was found hiding in a backyard boat. **MORE ON PAGES A11-A14, IN LATEXTRA AND AT LATIMES.COM.**



Peter Aaron/Otto for Robert A.M.

### BUSH LIBRARY'S MESSAGE

The George W. Bush library in Dallas is clearly meant to honor a particularly blunt, plain-spoken and inflexible kind of political power, writes Christopher Hawthorne. **CALENDAR, D1**



BRET HARTMAN For The Times

### SANTA MONICA POWER WALK SATURDAY

**Weather**  
Mostly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 81/58. **AA8**  
**Complete Index ..... AA2**



## No tinder mercies: Lack of rain a threat

BY HECTOR BECERRA

Southern California is marching toward its fourth-driest year since 1877, and that has firefighters increasingly girded for battle.

In the hills of Los Angeles County, tests show the brush is drying out at a significantly quicker rate this year because of the lack of rain. In Ventura County, firefighters say the parched conditions feel like what they typically see in June or July. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which handles fire protection for about a third of the state, said it has dealt with 150 more blazes so far this year compared with 2012.

"We've had some large fires in Inyo County, which typically doesn't have fires in the winter," said spokesman Daniel Berliant. "Many areas of California are seeing larger fires much earlier in the year, and it relates to the fact that January, February and March have been really dry throughout California."

Cal Fire announced it was deploying fire crews early this year in some areas, including the Inland Empire, because of what it described as "extreme" dry conditions.

Other departments said they are on high alert, especially with forecasts that call for two weeks of warming temperatures and gusty offshore winds. The National [See Threat, A18]