

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

While Imperial's Jonathan Beverly was long-gone from the area where two bombs went off at the Boston Marathon finish Monday, he still feels shaken.

As editor-in-chief of Running Times magazine, Beverly was in Boston from Friday to Monday, and was at the course finish line taking photos of some of the top female runners earlier in the day.

He had also been stationed at the Running Times expo booth over the weekend, and was part of a panel discussion Saturday and Sunday morning on "How to Run Your Best Boston."

However, he left the area to catch a 2:45 p.m. ET flight home. The first of the two bombings near the finish line went off shortly before 3 p.m. ET.

That 2:45 flight was earlier than the 6 p.m. departure he had booked initially. While wife Tracy knew that he had switched to an earlier flight, all of the Running Times staff did not.

"They were calling the hospitals," to see if they could find out about him, he said.

Tracy back in Imperial was also getting numerous calls from others who knew he was in Boston.

Had he decided to stay and catch the 6 p.m. flight, Beverly said he probably would have been across the street from the block in which the bombs exploded for additional photos, and likely wouldn't have suffered any injuries.

Those on the same block of Boylston Street, where the two pressure cooker IEDs went off only seconds apart, suffered multiple injuries from the flying shrapnel, glass and ball bearings.

Three were killed, including an eight-year-old boy, and upwards of 175 suffered injuries. News reports say at least 10 people had to have limbs amputated due to their injuries.

As of late Tuesday, no suspects were in custody.

Beverly said he has an overall feeling of sadness because "Boston is so special."

On this third Monday in April each year, Patriot's Day is celebrated in the state and is also set aside for the Boston Marathon. Everyone is off work and so many of them come out to support the runners.

"It's always spring there" and has a festive spirit, he continued.

"Now, this mars that image. Unfortunately, this image (the bombings) will probably remain for awhile. That's what the terrorists want," he said.

Beverly has run the Boston Marathon three times himself, but since joining Running Times, he's traveled to Boston for its many events mostly because of his magazine duties.

As he has done in the past, early Monday he again ran most of the course, starting about 5 a.m. at the finish and running 20 miles out, where he caught a ride with the press truck for taking pictures as the runners head into Boston.

While Running Times' June issue is on the press, Beverly said he had time to rewrite his editorial to comment on Monday's tragedy.

On top of it all, he didn't have an easy trip home, either.

After landing in Denver Monday night, snow was falling. It took him four hours to get to Sterling, normally about an hour and a half trip, as snow covered the highways.

He was forced to stay overnight in Sterling Monday, but was back in Imperial Tuesday afternoon for junior high track practice. He serves as an assistant coach for the Shorthorns.

