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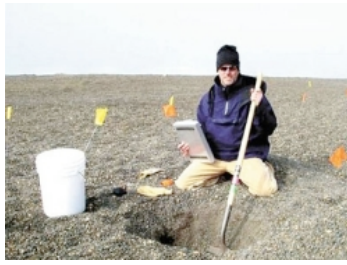
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Teacher starts Arctic archeological odyssey

By DAN BUSTARD, Staff writer

CHESTER -- As a teacher for 22 years, Frank Kelley is known for getting his students out in the field. Monday, July 21, 2008 10:49 AM

Now the Chester-Andover Elementary School science teacher is practicing what he preaches, spending the summer within the Arctic Circle doing archeology on the coast of the Chukchi Sea.

By doing archeology it means Kelley and others digging test pits, searching the sands for items and painstakingly brushing away everything to catalogue each item.

"The work is pretty slow, you have to look closely and there is quite a bit of material to go through," he wrote in an online journal of his activities. "What is exciting is finding things and then cleaning them up. As I was working through this, I felt just like an archaeologist!!"

Kelley is one of 36 teachers chosen from a nationwide search to take part in PolarTREC, an educational research experience funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and managed by the Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. K-12 teachers participate in polar research, working closely with scientists to improve science education.

His exploits, along with information on the weather (the highs are usually just above freezing in Barrow, Alaska), are available at www.polartrac.com.

His task will be to work on the Nuvuk Archaeology Project. Last year 1,007 holes were dug in a historically sensitive area, 22 included human remains while others found parts of homes and middens, piles of trash from the people who lived there in harsh conditions, using whatever they could find to survive.

According to the PolarTREC Web site, "as part of an ongoing project to document ancestral burials near Barrow, Alaska, an interdisciplinary team of archaeologists, physical anthropologists, geomorphologists, and community members will work together to excavate the Nuvuk cemetery and village at Point Barrow. The cemetery dates back at least 1,200 years, contains several hundred shallow burials, and is rapidly eroding into the Arctic Ocean."

Kelley started his Arctic odyssey earlier this month, traveling 4,111 miles away from Vermont.

His level of excitement is clear through his journal entries, even if he will spend the summer in a "rather rustic" hut. Kelley is finding many things to be excited about, and they are usually chronicled in his daily journal entries.

"I am amazed at the number of undergraduate and graduate students that are working up in the Arctic this summer," he wrote. "I spent the afternoon helping some folks from Michigan State with their plant work. We have a student who just graduated from Hampshire C. with us, another from Western Ontario, and there are others here in Barrow, AK from Cal State University -- San Diego, UTexas -- El Paso, San Jose State, Florida International University, and probably a whole lot of other places. It's amazing the interest!!"

Kelley has pledged to keep in touch with his students. He has developed an archeological activity students can do in perhaps the most obvious area that could use some digging up -- their bedrooms. The exercise is listed at www.polartrac.com/resources/activity/4799.

"The bedroom you choose to study should need to be cleaned but not be a complete disaster. The goal is to get the room clean while learning about archaeology. If there is too much material to go through you might consider getting some helpers.

1. Make a map of your room on a piece of paper. Include permanent objects such as furniture, bed(s), desks, bookcases, closet, etc.
2. Make a chart or use the one that is attached.

Local News

Span across Sugar River opens with fanfare

CLAREMONT -- Community members and leaders took the first steps across the Claremont pedestrian bridge Monday evening after City Manager Guy Santagata, Mayor Deborah Cutts, Sen. Bob Odell, R-Lempster, and John Tucker, who was the speaker of the house for Claremont from 1981-86, cut the ribbon to signify the opening of the long-awaited \$1.3 million project.

Fall Mtn. residents protest cuts

FALL MOUNTAIN -- The Fall Mountain School Board was unable to come to a decision regarding funding for the increasing cost of energy. The School Board and parents agreed that a committee, encompassing the entire district, would have to be formed to come up with ideas on how to spare three teaching positions.

Sports

A sprint to the finish

Barton was nipped at the finish line by Ryan Fleming in the furious final sprint of the men's Category 1/2/3 professional race. In the men's Master 35 years-and-over division -- Paul Richard caught Barton at the line and they finished in a dead heat.

Cyclists race to the top in Ascutney climb

Ascending the 3.7-mile route up the mountain in the Mt. Ascutney Bike Climb, is one way for cyclists to achieve their own.

Entertainment

Lions Club holds fair once again

Pete Collier's last day as acting president of the Norwich Lions Club was spent standing in a slightly soggy fairground, walking the distance between vendors, greeting locals and tying balloons on children's wrists, and, finally, arranging for the rides and booths to be packed up and the Norwich green vacated.

DVD Review

DVD Review By [Joe Milliken](#), Message Arts & Entertainment

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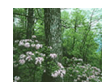
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3. Decide where you want to start. Pick a corner or along one wall.
4. Make your first discovery. Label the object on your map. Give it a code name, for example, instead of Red Sox t-shirt, call it RSTee#1.
5. Record the object on the chart. Include as much information as possible.
6. Continue in the same direction until you come to the next object.
7. When multiple objects are stacked on top of each that is called stratification. A big word that means layers of objects with one being deposited before the other. The oldest object is below the more recent object. Think of it this way, you take off your shoes, throw them in the corner, then take off your socks and throw them on top. Which got there first?
8. Continue to work across your first line, mapping, recording, and picking up.
9. Once you reach the wall or a permanent object. Start your next line and go from there. Each of these lines is known as a transect line.
10. Continue until the map/ chart are complete and your room is clean. Share with your parents, celebrate your accomplishment, and save the map and chart. You can compare the pattern of what was where in a few days or weeks when you go through this activity again!!
11. Additional discussion questions are attached as well.
12. Send me feedback at 'Ask the Team' to let me know how the activity worked and what you found. Consider doing your work on computer and sending the map and chart along to me. I will post the best on this website."

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