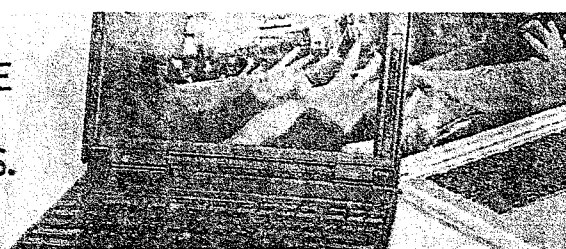


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# The News Journal

65 WWW

TUESDAY May 13, 2003

## Baby found in bag survives

By **TERRI SANGINITI**  
and **MIKE CHALMERS**  
Staff reporters

Dover police are trying to find the mother who put a newborn baby girl in a trash bag and left her next to a garbage can on Mother's Day.

The full-term baby, who was about four hours old when she was found, was in good condition Monday at Kent General Hospital, authorities said.

Dover police Lt. Kenneth Balke said a 14-year-old boy was taking out the trash in the 100 block of South New Street about 9:20 p.m. Sunday when he heard a noise that drew his attention to an open trash bag on the ground. The teen notified neighbors, who called police.

"Someone in the neighborhood got a blanket for the baby," Balke said. "The baby was very lucky someone came out."

A neighbor said the infant still had an umbilical cord attached.

"She's in good health right now," Balke said. "I don't think the baby was there that long."

The state petitioned the courts Tuesday and was given legal custody of the baby, Balke said.

## SCIENCE CURRICULUM WINS NATIONAL PRAISE



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The infant will remain in the hospital until the state can determine where to place her, said Trish Hearn, spokeswoman for the state Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families.

"We'll be consulting with Family Court about the appropriate next steps for this child," Hearn said.

Delaware has had a baby abandonment law for almost two years. The Safe Arms for Babies Act offers anonymity and immunity to anyone bringing an unwanted infant less than 14 days old to a hospital emergency room.

Hearn said there have been no legal abandonments in Delaware since the law passed in July 2001.

Delaware lawmakers proposed the law in 2000 after several high-profile baby-abandonment cases around the state.

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## TODAY'S FORECAST



HIGH LOW  
**65 47**



The News Journal/GARY EMEIGH

Autumn Stevens, a fourth-grader at North Laurel Elementary School, pets a just-hatched duckling in Jodi Green's class. Autumn and her classmates watched over an incubator for 21 days to hatch 30 chicks and ducklings. Green's students study the life cycle of chicks.

## Expert: Delaware project motivated students to learn

By **MICHELE FUETSCH**  
Staff reporter

When teacher Jodi Green's fourth-grade students at North Laurel Elementary School in Sussex County recite the Pledge of Allegiance, it's to a chorus — the peeping of 30 new chicks and ducklings.

"We might as well turn this into a chicken house," quipped Dylan Schockley, a 9-year-old trying his best to be blasé about the babies, which on a recent morning were hatching.

Peck by peck, sometimes for hours, chicks worked free of their shells to be greeted by awestruck children who hung a birth announcement on the classroom door.

How chicks came to be hatching in a downstate classroom is the story of how Delaware, from its back country roads to its toughest urban classrooms, hatched a world-class science education program.

"The curriculum standards that were established... are considered to be one of the top three sets of science curriculum standards in the nation," said Joseph Miller, a member of the National Science Board, which oversees the National Academy of Sciences.

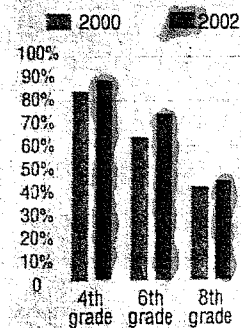
A former chief technology officer at DuPont, Miller was co-chairman of Delaware's Science Framework Commission. The group of teachers,

See **SCIENCE** — A2

### Performance

Science test scores have climbed steadily since 2000, the first year that children in public school across the state were tested in the subject.

#### Percentage of students that meet state standard



Source: Delaware Department of Education

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