

# Dover boy loses fight to survive

## Caught under dam in Conewago Creek

By **GAYLE EUBANK**  
*Dispatch/Sunday News*

The 14-year-old boy caught under a dam in Conewago Creek Thursday afternoon has died.

Joe Keller was declared dead at 11:27 a.m. yesterday, deputy coroner Mary Breighner said.

The official cause of death was lack of oxygen to the brain, she said.

Keller was one of four Dover Intermediate School students swimming in the creek below the trestle bridge where Big Mount Road crosses Conewago Creek on the border of Dover and Washington Townships.

Wanda Dunker, 13, got too close to a low-head dam in the creek and was pulled under

the churning water coming over the dam. Joe and Sam Crider, 13, went over to try to rescue Wanda.

The dam pulled the two boys in, too. Wanda was the first to emerge downstream. Sam came out of the water near a tree, which he held to keep from being pulled back in.

Sam felt Joe spin by near his legs, and Sam grabbed Joe and held onto him until rescue workers could pull him out of the creek.

Joe spent three nights in the intensive care unit at York Hospital before dying.

Wanda was pulled out of the creek unconscious, and Heather Spahr, 13, performed CPR to revive her.