

Carolee C. (Strickler) Dugan

Carolee Cathy Dugan, 75, of Muhlenberg Township, died December 14, 2016, in Penn State Health / St. Joseph.

Born February 5, 1941, in Reading, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Chester P. and Cora B. (Bingaman) Strickler.



She was a 1958 graduate of Reading High School. Carolee loved spending time with her family and shopping with her daughter.

She is survived by a daughter, Jennifer D. (Dugan), wife of Benjamin G. Randazzo, of Reading, and three grandchildren: Katie A. Irwin, Michael D. Irwin and Chelsey M. Frost, all of Muhlenberg Township.

Other survivors include a sister, Claudette (Strickler), widow of Gerald Pannabecker, of Bern Township.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Kathleen Dugan, who died December 28, 1982, and two siblings, Constance (Strickler) Kline and Chester Strickler.

Services will be held Tuesday, December 20th, at 11:00 a.m. in Stitzel Family Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc., 100 Kutztown Road, Laureldale. A viewing will be held Wednesday, one hour prior to services.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Humane Society of Berks County, 1801 N. 11th St., Reading, Pa. 19604.

For online condolences, visit www.StitzelFamilyFuneralHomes.com.

Boyertown schools must pay architects \$600,000

BY KAREN SHUEY
READING EAGLE

A Berks County jury entered a nearly \$600,000 judgment against the Boyertown School District, finding the district violated its contract with a Harrisburg firm by firing the architects before they had completed the design of a high school expansion project.

EI Associates Architects and Engineers, the company that worked on the multimillion-dollar design for nearly a year, filed the wrongful termination lawsuit in September 2013 after the school board severed its contract and demanded it return preliminary design fees.

The jury returned the verdict Tuesday after a six-day trial that began last week before Judge Timothy J. Rowley. The firm was awarded \$373,000 to cover invoices that were submitted and not paid and about \$220,000 in lost income.

Dr. Richard H. Faidley, superintendent, said Wednesday that district officials were extremely disappointed with the decision.

Timothy J. Woolford, a Lancaster-based lawyer representing EI, said his clients feel vindicated by the verdict.

"It appears that the school district spent a significant sum of money over the last three years defending the erroneous advice it received from its solicitor," he said. "And that's why the jury ultimately decided in our favor."

In the lawsuit, the firm stated that its design wasn't

complete at the time of termination and had at that point in the planning met all contractual requirements.

It also asserted that the firm wasn't given at least seven days' notice of agreement severance, one of the stipulations in the contract.

Lawyers representing the district argued the firing of EI was justified because the firm had underestimated construction costs.

The original estimate was \$55 million to renovate and expand the high school. But in August 2013, the school's construction management firm informed the board that the costs would exceed the budget and would be closer to \$70 million.

"We felt we had a strong case because we feel the admission of a \$10 million error is significant," Faidley said. "The (school) board directors are stewards of taxpayer money, and they were extremely careful throughout the entire process that the project would not exceed \$55 million."

In terms of its plans exceeding the budget limitations, EI explained its architects had become burdened by the district's additional requests that boosted overall project costs, including a new academy-style concept design and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

And because the construction plans weren't complete, EI stated it was "not required to update the estimate or to advise the owner of any adjustments to the estimate."

Contact Karen Shuey: 610-371-5081 or kshuey@readingeagle.com.

M. (Nangle) Pietrovito

Mae Pietrovito, 85, of Newtown, passed away December 14, 2016, at her residence.

In Reading, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Veronica (Wielandt) Nangle.

She was employed as a bookkeeper for John Hancock Insurance for 25 years.

She was predeceased by her husband, John Pietrovito, and siblings: Joseph A. Nangle, Bernard D. Nangle, and the late V. Sauppee.

She is survived by her children, John P. Pietrovito, of Deb, of Muncy, Pa., and Diane M. Miller, of Chicago, Ill.

She also survived by her grandchildren: Shawn Pietrovito, of Muncy, Pa., Kyle Pietrovito, husband of Christa, Jason, of Muncy, Pa., and Justin Miller; great-granddaughter, Airalynn R. Miller.

Her Christian Burial will be Celebrated at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 1018 N. 8th St., Reading, Pa., on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. A viewing will follow at Gethsemane Cemetery and Mausoleum.

Funeral Home & Cremation Service of Hampden Township is in charge of arrangement; online condolences may be made at www.beanfuneralhomes.com.

... with a Cop brings holiday cheer