Obituaries

(Continued from page 11)

in death.

Elaine Alford

Former Selma resident Elaine Faye Alford, 59, of Grants Pass died on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003 in Providence Medford Medical Center.

No service is planned, and private burial will be conducted in Visalia, Calif. Local arrangements are being handled by Hull & Hull Funeral Directors, Grants Pass.

Mrs. Alford was born on Sept. 28, 1944 in Carlsbad, N.M. She had lived in Selma for approximately 20 years before relocating to Grants Pass. Three brothers survive her.

Felicity Goucher Garcia

Felicity Goucher Garcia, 3 days old, died on Thursday, Dec. 11 at Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford.

Illinois Valley Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18 at I.V. Chapel and Funeral Home. Stephen Vantuyl will officiate. Visitation will be held at the chapel on Wednesday, Dec. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. Burial will follow the service at Deer Creek Cemetery in Selma.

It is the family's wish that donations be made to a memorial fund at Home Valley Bank in Cave Junction under the name of Goucher/Garcia. She was born on Dec. 9 in Grants

She is survived by her father, Ben Goucher and her mother, Evette Garcia, both of Selma; grandparents, Bernard and Karen Garcia of Selma and Kenneth Goucher of Panama City Beach, Fla. and Stacy Roundtree of Las Vegas. Nev.

Church News

St. Patrick of the Forest **Catholic Church**

On Dec. 21, we will light the fourth candle on the advent wreath. The Gospel reading from Luke will focus on Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Both women are pregnant and sharing their excitement as well because we know the roles that both children will eventually play.

Christmas is just days away now, and our season of Advent has prepared us for a great celebration. The music will be festive, the church will be decorated with poinsettias, and everyone will welcome the new born King, Christ the Lord.

Illinois Valley **Baptist Church**

Pastor Stan Smith announces the formation of a new youth group, Knights for Christ. The first meeting will be on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 3 p.m. in the American Legion Hall, 2110 Caves Highway. At the meeting officers will be elected and installed. Important committees, such as fund-raising, activities, outreach and communications, will also be formed.

The 5/4 HIM quintet from Medford will perform at the 10:30 a.m. service on Jan. 11.

Valley economic improvement linked to cooperation of groups

Economic development and diversification can come to Illinois Valley, but they are linked to business, civic and organizational leaders in the community devising a cooperative agenda.

That's a major conclusion in a just-completed report: "Strengths and Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis for Illinois Val-

It was prepared for the valley by Al Koski of the former JoCo Economic Development Dept. Partial funding for the survey was from the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State Lottery through the Rural Investment Fund administered by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Dept.

For the current SWOT analysis, Koski interviewed 89 persons, 79 of whom live and work in Illinois Valley. The exceptions, though not living in the valley, either work here or have strong connections to it through their employment or membership in organizations.

The second part of the conclusion reads, "With cooperative effort from local interests, the county and Oregon Economic Development Dept., Illinois Valley has the potential to

realize new opportunities while preserving the independent heritage that makes this community a unique, special place to work, live, do business and recreate."

The last SWOT analysis, conducted in 1989, drew the same conclusions. It was the first conducted in Oregon and lead to a strategic plan and formation of a "2010 Committee." a forerunner to the current I.V. Community Response Team (IVCRT).

The value of the effort, said Koski, became readily apparent in 1993 and '94 when the valley became quite "adept at applying for and receiving federal grants through the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative and was designated one of 30 Federal Enterprise Communities in the nation. (Continued next week)

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