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Jobless rate drops in county and state

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ORANGE COUNTY

LIFE CELEBRATION

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IT BREATHES THE SOUND OF FAITH

Crystal Cathedral’s $400,000 pipe organ needs $2 million worth of repairs.

By TOM BERG

wti 05-18-2013 22:56

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The Hazel Wright organ features 270 ranks, or sets, of pipes – from 65 feet to 32 feet long – five keyboards of pipes – from 4 inches to 16 inches – 16,000 pipes in all. “It’s an icon,” says Swann, 82, of Orange. “It has a reputation,” says maestro Olivera. “It’s not just another church organ. It’s the greatest organ in the world.” For the concert, they’ve invited a single organist, Doctor Olivera, who at age 5 performed for Eva Peron in Buenos Aires, and has since played everywhere from Notre Dame in Chicago to Carnegie Hall. He’s practiced three months for this performance, at times 15 hours a day. The program includes one piece best known as the music to help make this D-Day happen, “The Hour of Power.” Swann will be on hand to talk about t’s history. The concert is to announce the Orange County Organ Society’s first free-to-the-public concert here, to be held in the Diocese of Orange next fall and winter.

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**CONTACT THE WRITER:**

Fried Swan has played the 16,000-pipe organ at the Crystal Cathedral for more than 30 years. When the Diocese of Orange takes over the cathedral, it will get the organ, the fourth-largest church organ in the world.

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