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Ryse magazine to honor 4 women for contributions to Orlando business

5:52 p.m. EST, June 7, 2012 | By Anika Myers Palm, Orlando Sentinel

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Thousands of Central Floridians hear the calming voice of Monica May on the radio during their weekday morning commutes, and this weekend, some will hear more about the radio veteran's accomplishments.

May, the local host of the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner show on **Star 94.5 FM**, is one of four women who will be honored by Ryse magazine for their contributions to business in Central Florida Saturday night in Orlando.

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"This is the first time we're doing an event to recognize women," said Jay Jackson, publisher of the magazine, which highlights diversity within the region's business community.

Jackson said he decided to present the "Women on the Ryse" event and dedicate the next issue to women in business after hearing from several readers that the magazine didn't include enough women.

Among the honorees — all black women — is attorney Natalie Jackson (no relation to Jay), who founded the Women's Trial Group in Orlando. Jackson is among the attorneys advising the family of **Trayvon Martin**, the Miami teen shot to death by **George Zimmerman** in Sanford earlier this year.

The other women to be honored at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater are Joe Ann McClandon, an entrepreneur, and Cheryl Lester, regional general manager for Wal-Mart. The keynote speaker is **Val Demings**, retired Orlando police chief and candidate for Congress. Former broadcast journalist Annetta Wilson will serve as emcee. Although tickets will not be sold at the door, some are still available at Rysemagazine.com.

May, who is accustomed to communicating from her radio booth at Star 94.5, said she was a bit nervous about being the center of attention.

"I'm going to be uncomfortable come Saturday, but I'm grateful," she said. "I'm honored."

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