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Businesswomen recognized this week

By [Leigh Kelley](#)

Times-News Staff Writer

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Women have a lot to offer the business and professional worlds and this week six Henderson County women will be recognized for it.

The Hendersonville Business and Professional Women's chapter of the national Business and Professional Women organization will observe National Business Women's Week from Oct. 20 to Oct. 24.

The organization will honor a Woman of the Day starting Monday and running through Friday. The women are chosen based on their contributions to their families, employers and communities, both personally and professionally, said Jennifer Duran, chairwoman of the BPW's Women of the Week Committee.

"I think it's important to highlight the wonderful women-owned businesses and the women who work at businesses who have found a way to support their families and themselves," Duran said. "What we're all about is building better business women, for a better business world. It's a way for us to recognize women who normally wouldn't be recognized. They take care of their families, they take care of their jobs."

The organization will also recognize a local business or professional woman with the Woman of Achievement award. This honor is presented to a woman who has excelled in her field of work, going above and beyond the requirements in her career.

As part of National Business Women's Week, the Henderson County chapter of the BPW will honor an area business with the Employer of the Year award. The award is given to an employer who works with his or her employees in understanding work and personal needs and demonstrating flexibility to workers.

The Woman of Achievement award and the Employer of the Year awards will be presented at a breakfast which caps off a week of tribute to local women.

The breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Mountain Lodge in Hendersonville. The guest speaker for the event is Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy. Kathy Milner, owner of American Quality Foods, a company located in Mills River, is being honored as the BPW Employer of the Year. Henderson County Clerk of Court Kim Gasperson-Justice will receive the BPW's Woman of Achievement Award.
