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Cornerstone Building takes you from the ground up

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyle@timesleader.com



Boniello

WILKES-BARRE — Cornerstone Building Solutions is a full-service builder that takes the customer from the ground up to project completion.

Dave Boniello, vice president at Cornerstone, said the company gets involved early on in the design process. He said they have an extensive catalogue of homes and, as a custom builder, they can use original plans or modify them.

"We build a three-dimensional product in the factory, bring it to the site, and 90 to 120 days later, you're moving in," Boniello said.

"We cut construction time down 60 to 90 days, sometimes more."

By working cooperatively with the very best skilled tradesman to reach the customer's goals, Boniello said Cornerstone Building Solutions has effectively raised the bar of construction value.

The end result is a new standard of construction quality and value and, Boniello says, those results speak for themselves.

Boniello said he approaches his job from a unique perspective — with his more than 30 years on the job, Boniello has experience across all phases of construction from customer to carpenter.

Boniello said he rose from an entry level construction job to his management role with Cornerstone. Cornerstone is the sister company of Simplex Industries, a modular home manufacturer in Scranton. Boniello said Cornerstone is owned by Simplex, serving as its retail arm. He said Cornerstone buys from, then sells to the general public. Boniello said Cornerstone has been in business since 2005



Submitted photo

Creative Benefits Office Building, Rear 345 Market St., Kingston, was built by Cornerstone Building Solutions.

and its reach is primarily Luzerne and Lakawanna counties.

Boniello said Cornerstone is not only "the builder you deserve," but also the general contractor you expect.

"We are built from the ground up by individuals committed to providing the best to our homeowners," Boniello said. "We have made professionalism, quality and attention to detail

an integral part of each of our construction projects."

Owned by the Frichione family, there are examples of Cornerstone buildings throughout the region:

- Creative Benefits Office Building, Rear 345 Market St., Kingston.
- Residential home at 218 Roosevelt Street in Harvey's Lake.
- Police station in Bor-

ough of Harvey's Lake.

- Residential home at 1469 River Road, Pittston.
- Residential home at 112 Oak St., Pittston.
- Residential home at 182 Police Grove Road, Drums.
- Residential home at 2 Belmont Ave., Dallas.

"Our roots are well established in the Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and

Tunkhannock areas," Boniello said. "We have been offering a completely unique hybrid combination of customization and rugged modular construction for nearly a decade."

Boniello said the ingenuity and structural integrity of Simplex Industries built modular components provides homeowners with exceptional long lasting homes. He said Cornerstone Building Solutions builds upon that platform by adding the unique qualities of the homeowner's dreams and the expertise of Cornerstone's experienced staff.

"Our customers often have great amounts of capital in play and they want to know we are 110 percent dedicated to their project, their deadlines and to insuring we deliver the quality that is synonymous with Simplex," Boniello said.

Reach Bill O'Boyle at 570-991-6118 or on Twitter @TLBillOBoyle.

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JML Gifts customizes garden flags, much more

By Matt Mattei
mmattei@timesleader.com

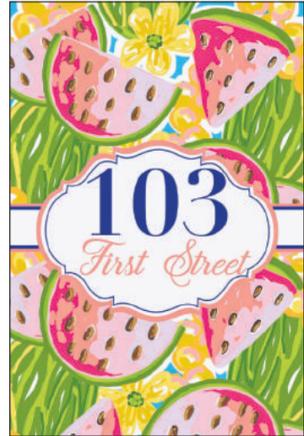
For Lake Sheridan gift-maker Cindy Edwards, starting a business out of her Wyoming County home was the result of wanting to have a gratifying occupation and needing to make it a viable living.

Three years after founding JML Gifts, it's not only become her livelihood but also something she enjoys sharing with her children.

JML Gifts specializes in customized items from ornaments to beach towels to functional home and office products to gifts that commemorate life's milestones, but it will be Edwards' garden flags on display April 13 through 15 at the 17th annual NEPA Home & Garden Show at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township.

"We decided to just streamline it to one item," Edwards said in a recent phone interview.

"What I've found is at these shows, the make-and-take shows, it's good to not bring everything so people don't get overwhelmed."



Garden flags from JML Gifts can be personalized to show an owner's name, favorite sports team or favorite pet and can even display a home address and act as a house-marker.

Edwards said JML Gifts will have its computer, printer and press on site as well as plenty of examples of garden flags that potential buyers can consider and choose from.

"We'll customize it however the customer wants," Edwards said. "Some people like privacy, so they only want initials; others want there full names. You can even add a photo if you wanted. We've done pet memorial flags for the garden with a photo of a pet. What-

ever you want, you can order it and it will be ready for you in an hour."

The flags, Edwards said, were not a flagship item when she started the business. Rather, they were a product she began producing after noticing how prevalent they were in her neighborhood and investing in a printer that could handle the production.

"It's something you notice a lot of people having, but they're very generic," Edwards said.

Her custom work includes personalization and holiday and seasonal imagery.

"I have some people buy them to use them as their house marker," Edwards said. "It might say '103 First Street.'"

The process she uses to render the images is known as sublimation.

"The images become one with the fabric, so they will be weather-proof longer than your standard \$9.99 garden flag," JML flags sell for around \$25.

While the flags are among her best

Reach Matt Mattei at 570-991-6651 or on Twitter @TimesLeaderMatt.



Submitted photo

Lake Sheridan gift-maker and owner of JML Gifts Cindy Edwards, center, will bring her customized garden flags to the NEPA Home & Garden Show April 13 through 15 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township.

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A new kitchen in about a week

By Geri Gibbons
For Times Leader

FORTY FORT – Rich Rome was aware that the only thing stopping some people from having the kitchen of their dreams was time it would take to install it – time without access to their kitchen with a multitude of workers in their home, and during which they might have thought they would have been better with their old kitchen.

That's why in 2014 he opened One Week Kitchens, assuring customers that in one week, or very close to it, they would have the new counter top, state of the art stove and new cabinets as perfect back-

drop for making family memories and entertaining guests.

According to Rome, the business on Wyoming Avenue which showcases options customers might have, has been a great success. He emphasizes on his website that although the kitchens are put in quickly, it's not a "one size fits all" deal, but that each customer gets what he or she wants.

"Our process is unique for two reasons. We don't subcontract employees. All of the installers work for our company making it easier to control the whole installation schedule," he said. "The second reason is we have a special relationship with our counter-top fabricators who turn our

quartz, granite and Corian tops around for us in just a few days."

Over the last four years, the company has grown not only in the number of customers it serves, but geographically.

"The word has gotten out about our process and our beautifully designed kitchens. We have also expanded into the Lehigh Valley and suburban Philadelphia market. We have a second showroom in Quakertown," said Rome.

Rome and his staff are excited, not only about their current success, but about future growth.

"We are very excited about the future of our business," said Rome. "We believe that



Aimee Dilger | Times Leader

One Week Kitchens has a showroom in Forty Fort on Wyoming Avenue and another in Quakertown.

We can keep growing and provide more and more homeowners with a great option for their kitchen remodel. Our process of a kitchen in one week is such a needed commodity because of everyone's busy schedules. We are

happy to offer this service to homeowners in Northeast PA and suburban Philly and will continue to do so for years to come."

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APPRAISAL STAGE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Seminar times & features subject to change.

Friday, April 13

Saturday, April 14

Sunday, April 15

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Free Verbal Appraisals limit 2 items
Curious about the value of an heirloom passed down over generations? Or are you just a lover of antiques?

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 4 p.m.

Seminar: "What's Going to Happen to My Stuff When I Die...?" You bought it. You collected it. You treasured it. Now what happens to your family heirlooms when you pass? Let Harry help you make a succession plan for your treasures.

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Free Verbal Appraisals limit 2 items
Curious about the value of an heirloom passed down over generations? Or are you just a lover of antiques?

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Free Verbal Appraisals limit 2 items
Curious about the value of an heirloom passed down over generations? Or are you just a lover of antiques?

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Free Verbal Appraisals limit 2 items
Curious about the value of an heirloom passed down over generations? Or are you just a lover of antiques?

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Free Verbal Appraisals limit 2 items
Curious about the value of an heirloom passed down over generations? Or are you just a lover of antiques?

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Free Verbal Appraisals limit 2 items
Curious about the value of an heirloom passed down over generations? Or are you just a lover of antiques?

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 2 a.m. - 3p.m.

Free Verbal Appraisals limit 2 items
Curious about the value of an heirloom passed down over generations? Or are you just a lover of antiques?

Harry Rinker, HGTV's "Collector Inspector" 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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GARDEN STAGE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Seminar times & features subject to change.

Friday, April 13

Ornamental Woody Shrubs 4 p.m.

By Marietta Garr of the Luzerne County Master Gardeners

Woody shrubs increase your property value, create shade, give wildlife a home, flowers color otherwise green areas and berries add and additional element for winter interest. From Spring to Fall there is a woody shrub out there waiting to work for you.

Saturday, April 14

Bird Education Station 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

AT THE EMNC EDUCATION STATION (see show map for location)

By Endless Mountain Nature Center

Visit the station to see a hawk, owl or falcon from across a table full of items to see and touch. An educator will share the life histories of each bird and answer questions. One or two birds are displayed at a time on a rotating basis.

Gardening For Wildlife 12 p.m.

By Endless Mountain Nature Center

Whether you have a patio or multi-acre yard, you can enhance it to benefit the wildlife who share the world with us. This seminar shows the basics. You can improve the world for native birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. The plants you grow and how you maintain your garden determine which wildlife you help, if any. Naturalist, educator, and gardener Rebecca Lesko shares her experience and knowledge to bring more life into your garden and yard.

Growing Useful Herbs 1 p.m.

By: Marietta Garr of the Luzerne County Master Gardeners
Why not add herbs to your kitchen garden? Using herbs can add subtle fragrances, excite our taste buds, or just create colorful lush green foliage. Marietta will discuss eight great herbs with you.

Gardening For Birds & Butterflies 2 p.m.

By Roberta L. Troy of the Penn State Luzerne Co. Master Gardeners

Learn how, when and what to plant to attract birds & butterflies to your garden. Big or small you can do it!

Sunday, April 15

Bird Education Station 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

AT THE EMNC EDUCATION STATION (see show map for location)

By Endless Mountain Nature Center

Visit the station to see a hawk, owl or falcon from across a table full of items to see and touch. An educator will share the life histories of each bird and answer questions. One or two birds are displayed at a time on a rotating basis.

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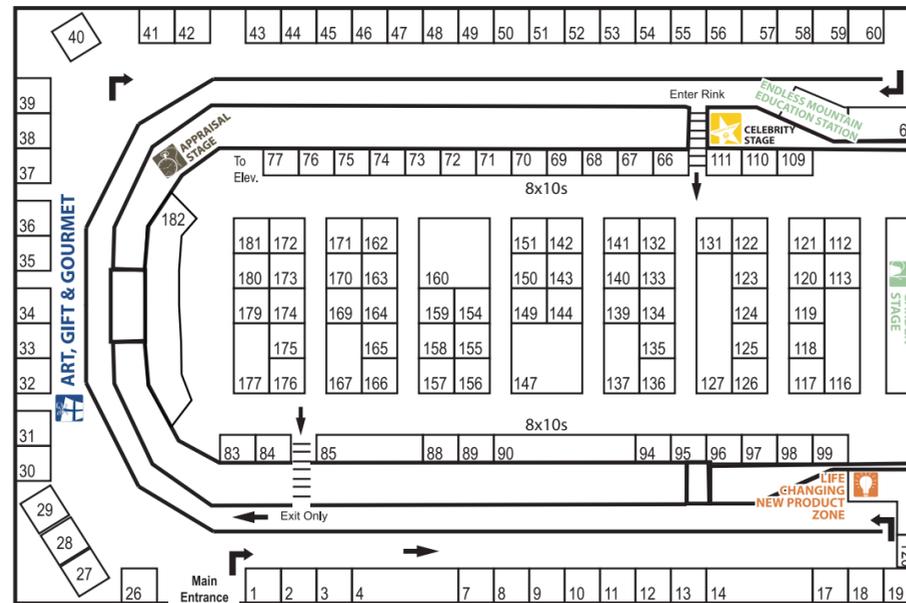
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CELEBRITY STAGE SEMINAR SCHEDULE | Seminar times & features subject to change.

Friday, April 13

4:00 p.m. Anatomy of a Great Home

By: Boyce Thompson, Author and Expert on New Home Technology
 Architectural juries meet every year to bestow awards on the best home designs. The projects tend to share common characteristics that could inform your next remodeling or new-home project. They capitalize on outdoor views, unclutter floor plans, make the most of natural light, and incorporate the latest wireless technology. Join Boyce Thompson, author of *The New New Home* and *Anatomy of a Great Home*, as he takes you on a photo tour of the best home designs, with an eye on take-aways that you can put to use.

Saturday, April 14

12:00 p.m. Inexpensive Home Products That Change Your Life

By: Boyce Thompson, Author and Expert on New Home Technology
 Each year manufacturers introduce thousands of new home products, but only a few actually change the way you live. Join Boyce Thompson, curator of the Life-Changing Products Exhibit, as he counts down the 10 most of innovative new home products for 2018, including robots that want to join your family, ovens that know how to cook, and cameras that critique what you wear. Homeowners have never had more inexpensive options to automate their home, reduce energy consumption, and control indoor air quality.

2:00 p.m. Anatomy of a Great Home

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3:00 p.m. Birds of Prey Show – Raptors Rule

By: Endless Mountain Nature Center
 Meet three of the live birds, learn what to do if you find an injured wild animal, and discover which birds of prey are raptors. Discover how these bird species survive in the wild. Learn what actions you can take to protect wildlife.

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Sunday, April 15

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From 'Fresh Cut Roses' to 'Sawdust' candle maker has it all

By Mary Therese Biebel
mbiebel@timesleader.com

PLAINS TOWN-SHIP —What do Sawdust, Beef Jerky and Bacon have in common with Fresh Cut Roses, Bamboo and Lavender Poundcake?

Believe it or not, they're all scents Cindy Kuhns infuses into the candles, bath salts and melts she makes and sells at 1998 Candle Company, the business she founded 20 years ago in — you guessed it — 1998.

"When I started out, mostly women used to

come. Then people asked why I had all the flowers, all this girly stuff," Kuhns said, explaining her response was to create some aromas reminiscent of barns, backpacking trips and brunch.

She sells those manly candles alongside items designed to fill a room with the fragrance of Camu Camu, a tropical plant; Island Colada, which offers a hint of coconut, and Bergemot, which would likely remind Earl Grey fans of a favorite tea.

"I look for things that are unusual," Kuhns admitted, laughing at a

bright yellow candle that contains a whiff of butterscotch and bears the name "Butt Naked."

"My brother was stationed in Hawaii and said the smell reminds him of the beaches there," Kuhns said. "He's kind of in love with this candle."

Kuhns' brother, Tom, isn't the only family member to have served in the military. The candle-maker herself served 15 years with the U.S. Army, repairing vehicles in a combat heavy engineering unit.

"That was really serious stuff," she said,

explaining she's glad her current occupation allows her to be less serious.

She calls herself a chandler — "it's an old-fashioned word, and I like it" — and began making candles as a hobby after having a heart attack at age 34.

"I was spending a lot of time at home, and I had to do something, or I

would have gone crazy," she said.

Kuhns, who makes her candles from palm wax — "they're actually vegan," she said — enjoys experimenting.

The Beef Jerky scent, for example, actually started out as a joke, but people liked it and it sells out quickly.

As for a bright red

candle called "Bite Me," that started out as a Halloween idea. You'll notice there's a little vampire on the label.

Kuhns' small-scale crafting involves making no more than two candles at a time.

She also sells aroma beads, tiny hard gels that give off a fragrance,

See CANDLES | 11



Aimee Dilger | Times Leader

As the owner and operator of 1998 Candle Company, Cindy Kuhns has been experimenting with new and different scents since 1998.

Candles

From page 10

which she began to make when her daughter, Jaime, was in college and not allowed to have burning candles in the dorm. She makes melts and soaps as well, and offers blocks of wax that give customers a chance to design their own pillar candles.

"I can transfer any picture onto a candle," she added, pointing to a display of pillar candles, each adorned with the image of a cat or dog.

With May being National Luau Month, Kuhns expects to sell a lot of citronella and other scented candles designed



Some of the candles Cindy Kuhns sells at 1998 Candle Company come in genuine coconut shells.

to keep the insects away.

Another product line, her Dead Sea Bath Salts, are made from sea salt she imports from Israel's Dead Sea and infuses with fragrance. "They're full of minerals," she said. "A lot of my clients are athletes and they're majorly into the eucalyptus and peppermint."

"One of my clients just texted me the other night, to say 'Oh, I was so relaxed. I just got out

of the tub with my bath salts."

Kuhns enjoys making life more pleasant for her clients, whether her products turn bathwater into a kind of spa treatment or add the glow of candlelight to a room.

"Candles are part of the special moments of your life, when you're feeling happy, sad, or romantic," she said. "They affect just about every part of your life."

In a new venture that she is starting with her sister, Sandy Kelly, Kuhns said the two of them will make centerpieces for showers and other occasions, with her sister handling the flowers and Kuhns taking care of the candles.



Aimee Dilger | Times Leader

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Kitner building better homes for 42 years

By Brigid Edmunds
bedmunds@timesleader.com

TUNKHANNOCK — With more than 46 years in business, Kintner Modular Homes is a staple in the area for home building.

Started in 1972, by Fred Kintner, Kintner continues to be a family-run business with a customer-first mentality.

“We treat our customers right,” Steven Brennan said.

According to their website, around the time Fred started the company, the combination of high property taxes and spiraling operating

costs were threatening the family farm. Fred watched an influx of homebuyers from the tri-state area coming to Northeastern Pennsylvania. Fred then thought about the idea of building spec houses on the farm to show those moving to the area. He worked with a traditional stick builder on the project.

Soon after the project started, he noticed an inconsistency with the quality, prices and timing in finishing the stick homes. Fred then began looking at modular construction as a way to alleviate those problems.

Eventually, Fred decided on the Superior Builders line from Muncy Homes, and formed Kintner Modular Homes Inc. Jeff Kintner currently owns the company.

Brennan said there are many advantages of purchasing modular homes, starting with the time it takes to put them together.

“Construction time is a third of what stick building is,” Brennan said.

He said that since Kintner’s modular homes are built in a climate-controlled factory, Kintner is able to build air-tight homes for customers. “It’s a great product,” he

said.

And while the business has been around for decades, Brennan said modular is “the way of the future.”

Kintner offers a wide variety of styles of homes, making it easy for customers to pick the house perfect for them.

- They offer:
- Cape houses
 - Ranch houses
 - Two-story houses
 - Log cabins
 - Raised-ranch homes
 - Chalet houses

In addition to the Home and Garden Show, potential home owners can visit Kintner’s Model Home Center in



Kintner Modular Homes offers a complete line of homes, including log cabins.

Tunkhannock, where they have eight models on the lot, as well as showcasing a wide range of customization options and layouts.

Brennan said in addition to the quality of their homes, Kintner’s customer service sets them apart from the

pack. He said they work hand in hand with customers to ensure they get the home that fits their needs and style.

“That’s how we do business,” Brennan said.

Reach Brigid Edmunds at 570-991-6113 or on Twitter @brigidedmunds

Softub is changing the hot tub game

By Dj Eberle
For Times Leader

Tom Thornbury took a risk.

In January 1987, he brought the only Softub in existence to the Atlantic City NSPI show. Despite a snow storm hitting New Jersey the same time as the show, the owner and founder of Softub left a mark at the trade show. So for more than 30 years the foam hot tub has been changing the game, including a “high position” on the INC 500 list in 1992.

“I will always remember our ominous first national trade show,”

Thornbury says in a statement on the company’s website. “I was greeted by the blizzard of the century, which delayed the show and greatly limited attendance. Nevertheless, our product attracted attention and gave my partners and me the incentive to invest our time and limited capital in it.”

During the very early stages, two of Thornbury’s early partners developed a hot tub using “soft, lightweight” foam for both the structure and insulation” and “the heat recovery technology” that enabled

the hot tub to be plugged into any 120 V outlet.

This new technology was a game-changer. Not only did it allow users to power the jets and heat the water without the use of a heater, but it also proved to be energy efficient and cost effective.

Softub users could keep their water heated at the desired temperature for roughly \$15 per month compared to the typical hot tub costs of \$40-70 a month.

According to the company’s website, “a Softub spa can be kept at 104 degrees and be used for 20 minutes every day for an

average cost of less than \$15 or less per month.”

Softub spas are also manufactured in a “green facility without the release of harmful VOC chemicals.”

The foam structure of the tub allows it to be “easily moved from location to location” and rolled “through any standard doorway.” The hot tub can be placed on any “adequate, load bearing smooth surface, outdoors or indoors,” as well.

This means nothing special needs to be placed under your Softub, which is not typically the case for other hot



Submitted photo

A Softub spa can cost as much as \$5,395 and as little as \$3,595.

tubs, according to the company’s website.

Softub offers three different hot tubs: Sportster 140, Legend 220 and Resort 300. The Sportster 140 fits one to two people, the Legend 220 fits three to four people and the Resort 300 fits five to six people.

As a whole, the Resort 300, which is the high-end tub can cost as much as \$5,395, but the Sportster 140, which is the low-end option costs as little as \$3,595. Potential owners can also inquire about financing on the company’s website, softub.com.

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Times Leader staff report

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According to the company's website: For \$20 per month, customers can get up to 3 devices in their households with over 500 channels, including high definition channels.

The company will be set up at the Home and Garden Show from April 13 through April 15 to answer any questions about switching from cable.

The RBoxTV offers a "pay as you go" option, without any long-term commitments, activation fees or cancellation fees.

The physical component of the RBoxTV looks like a tradi-

tional cable box, with Wi-Fi, bluetooth capabilities and USB ports. It is also equipped with Google Play, and allows customers to download apps and social media platforms. Customers can also plug in webcams to use Skype through their televisions. The RBoxTV comes with the main device, a remote, HDMI cable and a power adapter.




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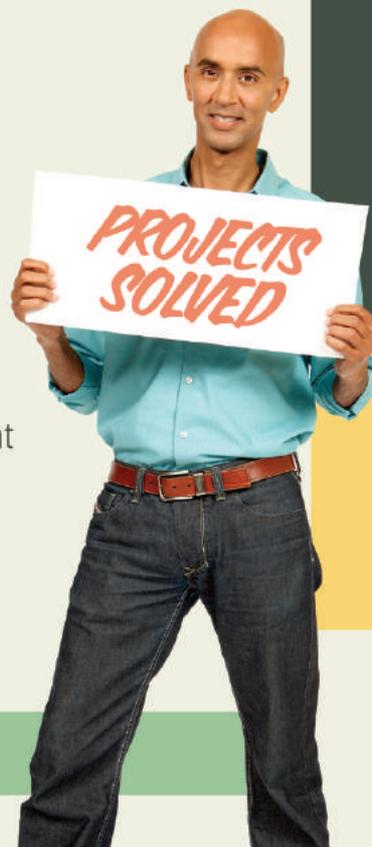
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