

# TECHNOLOGY TIMES

*“Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier And More Profitably”*

## Here's A Perfectly Legal Way For You To Save A Bundle Of Money On Taxes While Updating Outdated Computer Equipment, But You Have To Act FAST...

Please forgive me for the headline if it seems a bit “sensational,” but I really needed a way to get your attention about a perfectly legal way to save quite a bit of money on taxes while updating outdated computer equipment that is going to quickly pass you by if you don't act soon.

Thanks to the **recently updated** tax deduction titled “Section 179 election” (see [www.section179.org](http://www.section179.org) for details), the Federal Government allows you to buy **up to \$25,000** in machinery, computers, software, office furniture, vehicles or other tangible goods and take the full expense deduction in the current year, thereby **REDUCING** your taxable income on your **current year's tax return**.

It's important to note that this is significantly less than the 2013 deduction allowances, but is still real money in your pocket! But you have to act now, as once the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, Section 179 can't help your 2014 profits anymore.

### But Here's How I'm Going To “Sweeten The Pot” And Help You Save Even MORE Money

In the spirit of saving you money, I've decided to “sweeten the pot” and make the following offer to anyone looking to take advantage of this end-of-year deduction. Call us before December 1, 2014, to discuss potential hardware purchases in your business, and not only will we provide you with a full action plan to implement your new technology before December 31st, we will also send you a **FREE** copy of the book *1001 Deductions And Tax Breaks 2014: Your Complete Guide To Everything Deductible* – a smart business owner is always looking for more ways to save money!

Call your CPA if you have additional questions about Sect 179.



“Are you frustrated with your technology and want to make it work for you? That's where our Complete Care Program shines!”

- Brian Sherwood, AGJ

November 2014

Gulf Coast

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## 3 Easy Steps To Get More Out Of Your Printer

Printers— the necessary evil of every office. From paper jams and error messages, to problems like smearing, misfeeds, and ghosting, printers can really make your blood pressure rise. Here are a few easy steps you can do to get more out of your printer.

### Keep It Clean

There is no faster way to cause printer problems than by letting it get dirty. On a regular basis, you can use compressed air to blow out the inside of the printer. Remove the toner cartridge for better access, and don't forget to do the back if it is accessible. It also helps to take a vacuum to the outside. If you print labels or use any other type of specialty media, use rubbing alcohol to clean the rollers inside the printer.

### Do Your Maintenance

You can almost infinitely extend your printers lifespan by having the regular maintenance performed (varies by the manufacturer). This usually includes replacing the rollers, filters, and occasionally replacing the fuser.

### Use a Surge Protector

Nothing will send your printer to the bone yard faster than an electrical surge caused by lightning or other issues on the power grid.

## It's a Great Time to Discover Xerox

Now is a great time to replace your non-Xerox color printer or color multifunction printer. You'll boost your productivity and save big with a new, state-of-the-art Xerox color printer.

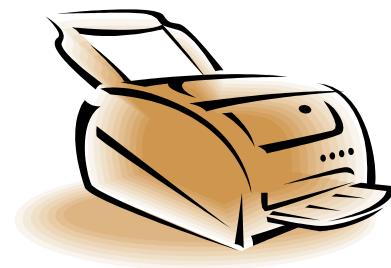
AGJ partners with Xerox to provide printing solutions for our clients. This quarter Xerox is running a special promotion for new customers. If you replace your non-Xerox color printer or color multifunction printer, you could save of up to 50% off your new printer. If you are in the market for a new printer give Annie a call at 228-392-7133 to find out the details on how you can qualify for this great discount.



## Reasons to Choose Xerox

A new Xerox color printer built on award-winning Xerox technology delivers many benefits. Here are just a few:

- Easiest supplies ordering program (via AGJ)
- Superior toner technology
- Solid ink technology
- Satisfaction guarantee



*Check out our Tech Tip on Xerox's solid ink on our website!*

## AGJ Hosts Food Drive



AGJ is hosting a canned food drive. Please stop by our office and make your donations now through Tuesday November 25th. All donations will be delivered to Loaves and Fishes. Please help us, help those in need this year.



During the month of November, we're upgrading our internal billing, scheduling, and client portal systems. Over the next two months, you may receive two invoices: one from our old system and one from the new. Please bear with us as we make these enhancements.

Once we're live on our new system, we'll bring you our upgraded client portal. From our new portal, you'll be able to enter tickets, review old tickets, run reports, request quotes, and view our client training material.

If you have any questions during this time, please give Jenny a call at 228-392-7133.

## 2014 AGJ Heart Walk Team



Thanks to everyone who donated or bought a BBQ sandwich in our Heart Walk Fundraiser! This year's Heart Walk theme was "super heroes." We opted for the Green Lantern (our favorite color).



## WHO WANTS TO WIN A TURKEY?

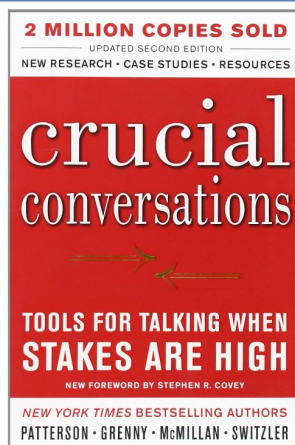


It's that time of year again....we are giving away a turkey to complete your Thanksgiving feast. To enter for your chance to win all you have to do is send us your referrals.

For every referral you send us beginning November 1– November 24th we will place your name in a hat. On November 25th we will draw 3 lucky winners.

So what makes a good referral for AGJ?  
Any business with 10 or more computers,

who is frustrated and tired of dealing with network, server or computer problems. If you know someone who could benefit from our help simply call Amanda at 228-392-7133 or complete the form on our web-site at [www.agjsystems.com/referral](http://www.agjsystems.com/referral). We promise to take extra special care of your referrals. Thank you for recommending us!



### Nerd Herd Book Review: *Crucial Conversations* by Patterson, Grenny, McMillan, and Switzler

One of the traits of truly successful people is that they know how to have difficult conversations. We've all kept our mouths shut to keep the peace or protect someone's feelings when we knew that we should speak up. *Crucial Conversations* dives into this subject and offers the reader a seven-point strategy for holding these high-stake conversations to achieve the desired goals.

This book will help you understand why we act and react the way we do during stressful conversations and provides steps to help you improve your dialog skills. Regardless of your rank or position, this is a great book. **4.5 out of 5 stars.**

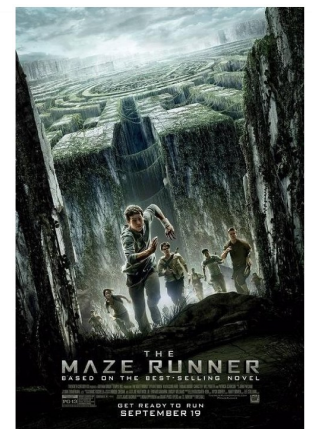
### Nerd Herd Movie Review: *Maze Runner*

Set in the future, after a brutal period on Earth, *Maze Runner* tells the story of a group of young men and women who find themselves trapped in a huge maze. With their memories erased, the group learns to survive by living by a strict set of rules. When a new member arrives and challenges the rules, the problems begin.

Based on the best-selling book by James Dashner, the story feels kinda' like *Hunger Games*. The audience is definitely the same.

If you like decent special effects and are looking to curb your *Hunger Games* appetite until the new movie arrives in theaters next month, check out *Maze Runner*.

We give it 3.5 stars out of 5.



## Shiny New Gadget Of The Month:



### Pebble Steel

Pebble Steel does more than just tell the time — this smart watch displays e-mail, text messages, caller ID and other notifications from your favorite apps, reading them straight from your iPhone or Android phone. Pebble cleverly vibrates on your wrist to alert you of incoming calls, meeting reminders or approved notifications. Leave your phone in your pocket as you go about your day-to-day activities.

The long-lasting battery life and the easy-to-use design makes this watch both stylish and necessary in this day and age, and its e-Paper screen makes it easy to see in both direct sunlight and even underwater.

Pebble Steel is available on Amazon.com for \$149.99. With this gadget, whose battery can go for a week without charging, the integration of technology in your life will be smoother and much more hands-free.

## Barn Movers

In 1981 Donna and Herman Ostry bought a farm in the small town of Bruno, Nebraska, about 60 miles outside of Omaha. The farm came with a big barn that had been built back in the 1920s and also had a nice little creek that flowed through their property. The creek was both a blessing and a problem for the Ostrys. It was great to have readily available water for their farm animals but it also flooded a lot during heavy rains. The barn floor seemed to always be wet and muddy, and then in 1988 they had a huge flood where the water rose about 30 inches up the side of the barn walls.

The Ostrys desperately needed to move the barn to higher ground, but the cost to contract with a company that has both the capability and equipment to move a barn of this size was prohibitive. One night, sitting around the dinner table, Herman Ostry commented that if he had enough people he could pick the barn up and move it to higher ground. Everyone laughed off the comment as silly ... everyone except his son Mike.

I wonder if “young” Mike knew that people scoffed at the idea of traveling 30 miles per hour on a railroad car. People actually thought that traveling that fast would stop the circulation of the blood. I wonder if “young” Mike knew that Eli Whitney was laughed at when he showed his first cotton gin, that Thomas Edison had to install his electric light free of charge in an office building before anyone would look at it or that Samuel Morse had to plead before 10 Congresses before they would even look at his telegraph (*which revolutionized communication*). Maybe “young” Mike just thought ... **WHY NOT** ... and then he set out to figure out a way to make his Dad’s statement a reality.

*Young, inexperienced, doesn't-know-any-better* Mike did some calculations and figured out that the barn weighed about 17,000 pounds. He then figured out that he could design a steel grid system that he could place under the barn that would weigh another 3,000 pounds. So, the total weight that would need to be lifted was 10 tons. “Young” Mike figured if he could gather up about 350 people, they would all need to only be able to lift approximately 50 pounds each.

Mike presented his calculations to his dad, and they both thought it would work. Mike and his dad got a little lucky on the timing when they presented their idea to their small town. Nebraska was getting ready to celebrate its centennial, and the town of Bruno had put together a committee of townspeople to decide on different things to do for the celebration. Mike and his dad convinced the town to make the barn moving a part of the celebration. The word got out and over 4,000 people from 11 states witnessed the event.

A little before 11 a.m. on July 30th, 1988, in front of the local television cameras, 344 people moved the barn 143 feet up a gentle slope to its new foundation. *All in all*, it took 3 minutes to move the barn. So, the next time somebody hits you with an idea that you think is silly or maybe even impossible ... think again, and never discount the **POWER of TEAMWORK**.

Relive this idea again in your head. Someone in a meeting says, *“Let’s move a 17,000 -pound barn 143 feet up a slope, and do it in less than 3 minutes, using no machinery.”* Now, that idea sounds pretty nuts, ridiculous, stupid, impossible and far-fetched to me. But a need, a desire, a creative mind, a well-designed plan and a giant team, **all working together**, made it happen.



Robert Stevenson is a highly sought after, internationally known speaker. He is the author of the best-selling books *How to Soar Like an Eagle in a World Full of Turkeys* and *52 Essential Habits for Success*. Robert is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) and is a former All-American Athlete. He started his first business at 24 and has owned several companies. Robert has international sales experience dealing in over 20 countries and his client list reads like a Who’s Who in Business. He has shared the podium with such renowned names as Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf, former President George H.W. Bush, Anthony Robbins and Steven Covey. [www.robertstevenson.org/](http://www.robertstevenson.org/)

## Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Set To Expire In 2015

Microsoft has announced that as of July 14, 2015, it will discontinue support for its 11-year-old server operation system, Server 2003. This follows in the wake of its recent discontinuation of support for Windows XP this past spring. Failure to upgrade your server off of this operating system dramatically increases any company's cyber-security risks.

With server migrations taking on average 200 days from planning to completion (industry average), if you still have a server running this software active on your network, now is the time to start planning. End of support for Windows Server 2003 means:

- **No further updates or security patches released.** 37 critical updates were released for Server 2003 in 2013 alone. No updates will be released after 7/14/15.
- **Loss of compliance.** Various industry regulations and industry standards will no longer be able to be achieved if you are using Server 2003 actively on your network.
- **Increased security risks.** Any server running this operating system will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks aimed at taking control of your network, stealing your data or crashing your systems.

### Free Server 2003 Migration Plan Gets You Started

As your preferred Microsoft Silver Partner, we are committed to helping your company by offering a Windows Server 2003 Migration Plan for no charge.

To secure your FREE Server 2003 Migration Plan, call Amanda today at 228-392-7133.

## Employee Spotlight: Mike Brown



Mike joined AGJ in October of 2010 as a help desk technician. Mike now spends most of his time working at client sites to keep offices running smoothly. In his spare time, Mike takes his love of science fiction seriously. He is an avid gamer and a board member of CoastCon, the longest running science fiction, role playing, and literary convention in the southeast ([www.coastcon.org](http://www.coastcon.org)). He is also the president of the Biloxi-based chapter of Starfleet International, The International Star Trek Fan Club. As commanding officer of the USS Neptune, he is involved in multiple charitable events throughout the year ([www.us Neptune.org](http://www.us Neptune.org)).

### The Lighter Side: *How Balloons Teach Teamwork*



Once, in a seminar of about 50 people, the speaker decided to change his presentation to prove a point. He decided to do a group activity. He gave each person a balloon and asked them to write their names on it with a marker.

All the balloons were gathered up and put into a small room. The attendees were all let into the balloon-filled room and were asked to find the balloon with their own name on it within 5 minutes. As expected, everyone was frantically searching for their name, colliding with each other, pushing around others and creating utter chaos.

At the end of the 5 minutes, no one had found their own balloon.

The presenter then asked the attendees to randomly pick up one balloon and give it to the person whose name was written on it.

Within minutes, everyone had their own balloon.

"This is what is happening in our lives," the presenter explained. "Everyone is looking frantically for their own happiness, not knowing where it is."

Our happiness lies in the happiness of others. Give happiness to other people, and you shall find your own.

This is the purpose of human life.