

Meet the Scrooges

They're us! We're all looking to save a buck or two on holiday shopping

PEORIA — A recession-stressed nation, plagued all year by news of economic ills and mounting unemployment, now turns its weary eyes to the bargain counter for holiday cheer.

At least that's what retail experts expect.

According to a September survey by the Chicago-based Performics marketing group, 60 percent of consumers plan to spend less this holiday season than last year, with 30 percent planning to spend the same amount and only 6 percent planning to spend more....

Fitness equipment

Some may want more activity than a board game. Will Flanagan, spokesman for Boston-based online retailer CSN Stores, said the sale of fitness equipment has spiked since March. "Elliptical machine sales are up 350 percent, exercise bikes are up 312 percent and home gyms are up 309 percent," he said.