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Experts' financial wish lists

Commentary

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Kids aren't the only ones with visions of sugar plum fairies and long wish lists this Christmas Eve.

I asked local investment professionals what they hope Santa will bring them.

MICHAEL WILLIS, president and fund manager, Giant 5 Funds, Colorado Springs:

"A certified check in the amount of \$8,644,291,917,988 to pay off our national debt.

"To put this potential catastrophe into perspective, the invested assets of the entire U.S. mutual fund industry is only \$8.9 trillion (Source: 2006 Investment Company Fact Book).

"It would require every investor in America to forfeit his or her entire mutual fund portfolio to eliminate this debt.

"I believe this looming debt bomb is the single greatest threat facing shareholders and Wall Street today."

ALLAN ROTH, certified financial planner and CPA, Wealth Logic LLC, Colorado Springs:

"I would love Santa to bring a big box of diversification and discipline in investing and take some of that excitement and expenses back to his sleigh.

"This is the sort of gift that will translate into higher returns, which results in meeting our financial goals much sooner."

SUSAN STRASBAUGH, certified financial planner, Strasbaugh Financial Advisory Inc., Colorado Springs:

"Democrats that will keep lower capital gains tax rates and resolve the estate tax law," which makes it harder for families to plan when it's not known at what asset level estate taxes will be subjected to in the future.

JASON HUNTLEY, managing partner, Huntley Thatcher Ellsworth Ltd., Colorado Springs:

A slower, more stable economy. "If things are stable but slower, things will be fine."

TOM HOLMES, president, Holmes Financial Group Inc., Woodland Park:

A wakeup call for people to understand and avoid the pitfalls of retirement planning.

"I know the desire to retire can be overwhelming.

"The emotions that surround the potential retirement years can potentially lead the retiree to disaster, forcing him or her to return to work at a lesser wage, fewer benefits (if at all) and less than satisfactory working conditions."

EBENEZER SCROOGE (his ghosts are around us everywhere):

No more money mistakes of the past that will haunt you.

“Take a moment to list the three things you need to do or have been told you should do financially, but can’t seem to make happen.

“What would have to happen before you truly commit to making the changes?”

Read more Scrooge money tips in the book “The Financial Wisdom of Ebenezer Scrooge: 5 Principles to Transform Your Relationship with Money.”

Just be careful if you give it as a gift.

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