



finance



Game On • The next update of Sony's PlayStation 3, slated for late this month, will let users download games, video and ringtones. The update will add Blu-ray Disc Profile 2.0, or BD-Live capability, and also let users copy photos and music playlists onto PlayStation Portable, use the PSP as a remote control for the PS3 and stream linked video files from the Web.

CELL PHONES

Carriers Snap Up Airwaves at Auction

The nation's cell phone companies won big in a record-setting government airwaves auction, the Federal Communications Commission said yesterday.

AT&T Inc. and Verizon Wireless, the nation's two biggest cell phone carriers, bid a combined \$16 billion of the record \$19.6 billion pledged in the auction. Verizon Wireless bid \$9.4 billion while AT&T Inc. bid \$6.6 billion.

The results raised concern that the auction had failed to attract any new competitors to the cellular telephone market to challenge the dominant carriers.

Google Inc. was not among the winners, meaning the search engine giant will not be entering the wireless business.

One new entrant, Frontier Wireless LLC, which is owned by EchoStar Communications Inc., won nearly enough licenses to create a nationwide footprint.

STARBUCKS

Judge Orders Coffee Chain Trickle-down

A Superior Court judge has ordered Starbucks Corp. to pay its California baristas more than \$100 million in back tips and interest that the coffee chain paid to shift supervisors.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Patricia Cowett also issued an injunction that prevents Starbucks' shift supervisors from sharing in future tips, saying state law prohibits managers and supervisors from sharing in employee gratuities.

Starbucks spokeswoman Valerie O'Neil said the company planned an immediate appeal of the ruling, calling it "fundamentally unfair and beyond all common sense and reason."

The lawsuit was filed in October 2004 by Jou Chou, a former Starbucks barista in La Jolla, who complained shift supervisors were sharing in employee tips.

Giving Is Getting

HAPPY TO GIVE • People who made gifts to others or to charities reported they were happier than folks who didn't share, according to a report in today's issue of Science.

BUY HAPPINESS • While past studies have shown that having more money can increase happiness, the researchers wondered if the way people spent their money made any difference.

HOW HAPPY? • The researchers started by asking 632 Americans, 55 percent of whom were women, to rate their happiness from 1 to 5, the higher the number the happier.

'PROSOCIAL SPENDING' • "Personal spending was unrelated to happiness ... but higher prosocial spending was associated with significantly greater happiness," researchers found.



Weekly iPod Giveaway

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