



TECHNOLOGY

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A report on business at the cutting edge

Briefcase



UCSB researchers get funding for brain imaging

UC Santa Barbara researchers received \$9 million to further their efforts to get a better view of the human brain.

The National Science Foundation awarded the funding to the Next Generation Multiphoton Neuroimaging Consortium project, or NEMONIC, which includes UCSB researchers John Bowers, Michael Goard and Luke Theogarajan among its team of neuroscientists, electrical engineers, molecular biologists, neurologists, bioengineers and physicists. The collaboration aims to use longer wavelengths of light to image cell activity in the brain.

"The fundamental barrier is the ability to see the brain in action," said Bridget Queenan, associate director of the UCSB Brain Initiative, in a news release. "As neuroscientists, we would love to watch brain cells going about their daily business. We want to record all the cells all the time, but that's just not possible with the existing technologies. Fundamentally, we need to invent new ways of seeing what brains are up to."

Oasis Technology hosting cyber security seminar

Camarillo-based Oasis Technology will host a free cyber security seminar at the Courtyard by Marriott Oxnard Ventura on Nov. 14 in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The 7:30-9:30 a.m. event will feature Kimo Hildreth from the FBI's Task Force local Ventura County division, discussing ways to protect customer data, intellectual property and financial transactions.

The company also announced the national rollout of its cyber security device Titan. In the 12 month regional rollout at 23 installations, the device successfully blocked more than 22 billion hack attempts, the company said, using artificial intelligence in front of and working in conjunction with existing firewalls.

New app connects users to SLO social services

A new app created by a group of volunteers provides a one-stop source for information, contacts and links to social service resources in San Luis Obispo County.

The app, titled San Luis Obispo Community Resources, allows users to find information to meet virtually any social service need, including housing, substance abuse issues, legal help, transportation, mental health counseling, veterans services, help for the elderly and even animal services.

It includes resources offered, gives links to providers and connects users with contact numbers, hours of operation and addresses



Gina Auremmia, marketing director of Salty Girl Seafood, presents at the Sandbox Startup event.

Two minutes to shine

Santa Barbara companies shine at Sandbox Startup

By Marissa Nall
Staff Writer

Two Santa Barbara startups secured spaces in the Tech.Co Startup of the Year showcase, and a third will fly to Washington D.C. to compete for a global title.

Funk Zone coworking space The Sandbox hosted a Startup Mashup event Sept. 29 alongside Tech.Co, where a dozen startups had a mere two minutes to pitch to a panel of judges.

Among the winners, UC Santa Barbara Bren School spinout Salty Girl Seafood got an expense-paid trip to the nation's capital to compete for the Challenge Cup, put on by startup incubator 1776 and investment firm Revolution.

RentTrack, a rent payment platform that reports to major credit agencies to help renters build credit, and EVmatch, a peer-to-peer network for electric vehicle

charging, each won spaces in the Startup of the Year competition.

Judges were looking for companies that were "successful currently for the opportunity," said Christina Topacio, founder and CEO of female networking company Jig+Saw.

"There were a lot of people that were very much wanting to be in that position, but it was about what they were going to get out of the opportunity in D.C., so we wanted to make sure that whoever went was going to get the most out of that," Topacio said.

Salty Girl had only recently changed its business model, said Marketing Director Gina Auremmia, giving it a chance to practice the new pitch. After selling products online and in specialty stores, the company brought its sustainably caught and traceable seafood products to market in select Target stores and

Amgen settles with AbbVie

By Marissa Nall
Staff Writer

Amgen's settlement with rival AbbVie gives it a timeline for the rollout of a biosimilar that mimics Humira, the world's best-selling drug, but AbbVie still secured protections for its \$16 billion-a-year golden goose.

The Thousand Oaks-based company received Food and Drug Administration approval for its Humira biosimilar in September of 2016, and Chicago-based AbbVie filed

alleging that the drug also violated the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act.

The two companies agreed Sept. 28 to drop all pending litigation, which was scheduled to last until 2019.

Amgen Director of Global Communications Kelley Davenport told the Business Times that the settlement agreement provided certainty and clarity on timing, eliminated costly litigation and brought Amgen closer to the launch of one of its first biosimilar