Here's the news you need to know.

As a startup region, we need more than just startups. We need -- and have -- a robust ecosystem, including universities, colleges, meetups, events, and civic support. This week, a variety of our articles focus on the ecosystem, including stories from and about UCSC, CSUMB, City of Santa Cruz Economic Development.

As well, there are two events of note coming up: CSUMB is hosting a symposium highlighting women in ag, tech, and agtech. (N.B. I'll be moderating the agtech panel.) And, the Santa Cruz Bitcoin & Cryptocurrency Meetup hosts a guest speaker who will focus on using blockchain-based digital assets for tracking the production and transfer of physical commodities.

There's more so scroll down and start reading!

Sara Isenberg
Founder, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief
Santa Cruz Tech Beat
http://santacruztechbeat.com
Top Stories

Xpansiv CEO, Joe Madden, will discuss digital commodities on the blockchain at the Feb 21 Bitcoin & Cryptocurrency Meetup. [Read this article.]

and agtech. RSVP now for this Feb

CSUMB to host half-day symposium featuring women in agriculture, technology, and agtech. RSVP now for this Feb 28 event. [Read this article.]

A team of UCSC computer science students wins sponsorship from Amazon to develop a "socialbot" that can converse with humans. [Read this article.]

Looker releases new features/enhancements that make it easier for users to drive greater value from their business by acting on critical business decisions from trusted, data-driven insights. [Read this article.]

There's a general understanding that data...
hides information of great value, but collecting data is only half of the equation. Read this article.

Two Baskin School of Engineering professors have been elected to the National Academy of Engineering for their outstanding contributions to the field of engineering. Read this article.

Q&A: Bonnie Lipscomb, City of Santa Cruz Economic Development Director, on the relationship between the tech community and local business development, and more. Read this article.

Jobs/Internships

- View all job openings
- Post a job (free)

Events

Note: Dates, times, and locations are all subject to change. Be sure to check the event website, just in case!

- Tue Feb 20, 6-7:30pm: Introduction to 2018 Startup Challenge Competition, Seaside.
- Wed Feb 21, 6:30pm: **Santa Cruz Bitcoin & Cryto-currency Meetup** at NextSpace.

- Thu Feb 22, 6pm: **How to Write and File a Patent Application** at 3 Hanger Way Suite D, Watsonville.

- Thu Feb 22, 6-7:30pm: **Introduction to 2018 Startup Challenge Competition** at Nextspace.

- Tue Feb 27, 6-7:30pm: **Introduction to 2018 Startup Challenge Competition**, Watsonville.

- Wed Feb 28, 8am-4pm: **Monterey County Business Council Infrastructure Summit**, Seaside.

- Wed Feb 28, 2-6pm: **Women in Ag and Tech: Challenges and Opportunities** at CSUMB, Seaside.

- Wed Feb 28, 5:30: **Santa Cruz County AgTech Meetup at Driscolls**, Watsonville.

View more events on our EVENTS page.
Santa Cruz Tech Beat is the heartbeat of TECH in our region. News, Events, Jobs, Resources, Thought Leadership, and more!

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- Find local tech [meetups and resources](http://myemail.constantcontact.com/-222--Blockchain--SlugBots--Women-in-Ag+AgTech---and-more-tech---.html?soid=1102136716634&aid=_XLsMwvSTz8).
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