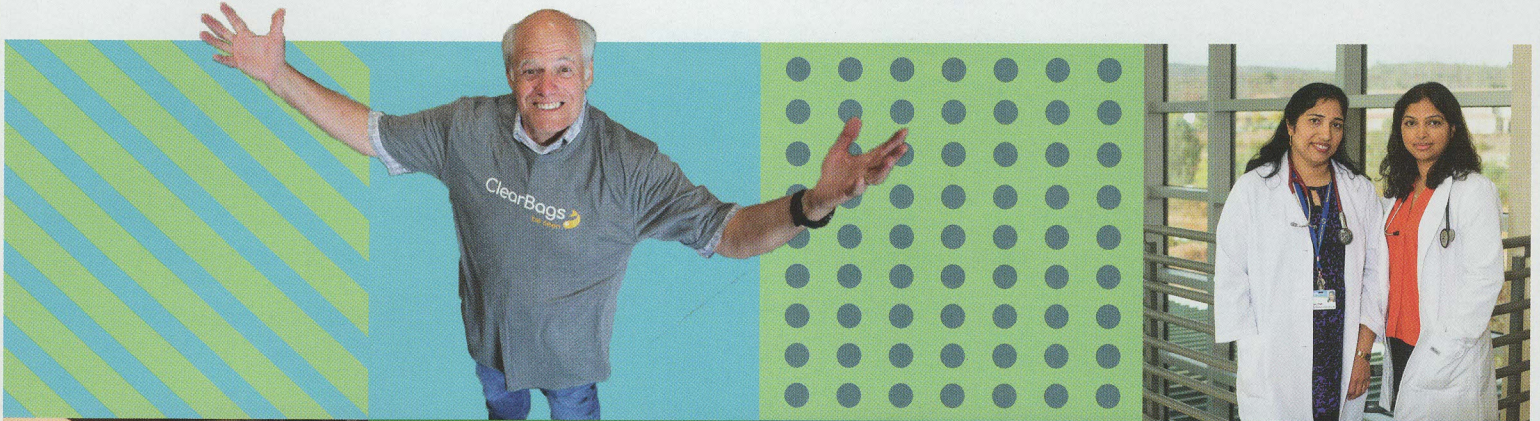


STYLE

EL DORADO COUNTY FOOTHILLS

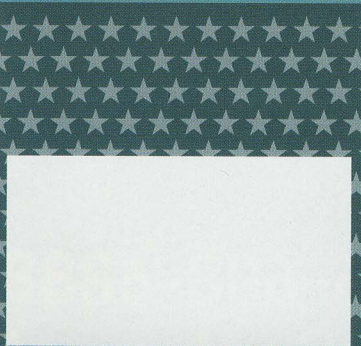


15



COOL


LOCAL COMPANIES



CULTURE IS KING
OLDIES BUT GOODIES
FOOD & DRINK PURVEYORS
SMALL GONE BIG



ALSO...
MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS
TOP AREA DOCTORS AND DENTISTS
PAGE 19

 **MARSHALL**
MEDICAL CENTER
It's about you
PAGE 35

15 Cool Companies

SMALL GONE BIG

SlideBelts

4818 Golden Foothill Parkway, Suite 9, El Dorado Hills
888-754-3311, slidebelts.com

Employees: 39



Innovation meets style with these sleek belt enthusiasts, all of whom share one belief: Holes in belts are unnecessary. In 2004, founder Brig Taylor was teaching abroad in Moldova when a student presented him with a simple yet ingenious gift: a belt featuring a buckle that ratcheted into teeth-like ridges instead of a prong and worn-out holes. Taylor sought to stylize the belt and turn it into a mainstream marvel, but there was one caveat: ratcheting buckles were already public domain and a patent wouldn't be possible until nine years later, when he improved and redesigned the buckle into a dual-ratchet lever. (He also added a bottle opener to the belt for good measure.) Today, the belts are shipped worldwide and offered in utility and fashion styles, kids' sizes, and even vegan leather.

Job perks: Full-time employees enjoy 35-hour work weeks (paid hour-long lunches), subsidized gym memberships, chances to win money and prizes, an open vacation policy, and a game room with ping pong and VR. (Yes, they're hiring—put in a good word for us?)—LA

ClearBags

4949 Windplay Drive, Suite 100, El Dorado Hills
916-933-4700, clearbags.com

Employees: 100+



ClearBags is the number one provider of crystal clear bags for packaging various retail items—think food, photographs, and everything in between. Their first priority is to promote, protect, and preserve their customers' products. The company started by selling posters, but after numerous customers began purchasing the clear bags the posters came in, instead of the posters themselves, ClearBags was born. In the 26 years since, the company has evolved to function around its customers, including an expansion to Tennessee for those on the East Coast, and a custom team that constantly comes up with new and improved packaging ideas.

Did you know? ClearBags also sells boxes, stationery, and accessories to complete the packaging of any product, all available at wholesale pricing. With over 6,000 products in their inventory and ready to be shipped within one business day, it's easy to find packaging fit for any occasion.—AM

Paragon Products

4475 Golden Foothill Parkway, El Dorado Hills
916-941-9717, paragonproducts.net

Employees: 60+

A leader in the rail industry for over two decades, Paragon Products accounts for over 95 percent of the train fuel and lubricant market in North America. All around the



world, the company is recognized as a pioneer by global diesel engine manufacturers and offers many products and services supported by patented technologies in support of fuel transfer systems, like fuel and oil pumps and valves. Engineering services are also available to troubleshoot existing functional challenges or create brand-new concepts for unique solutions. In addition to being globally recognized, Paragon is also frequently in local news. They're a member of the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce and sponsor and participate in many local charities and events.

Work perks: Employees are hardworking and innovative, and they have great benefits, including 100 percent company-paid health care, company picnics, and paid holidays.—AM

**FOR EVEN MORE COOL COMPANIES,
VISIT STYLEEDC.COM.**