



DAVID B. PARKER/RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Dr. Forrest Burke of Silver State Spinecare in Sparks works with patient Christine Jensen last week. Below, Burke talks with Jensen before the treatment.

## Silver State Spinecare another in growing roster of health-care facilities in Sparks

BY BRANDY DELA VEGA  
bdeleva@rgj.com

### AT A GLANCE

**SILVER STATE SPINECARE:**  
1055 Roberta Lane, Suite No.  
103, Sparks; 331-2600; www.  
silverstatespine.com



Christine Jensen says knowledge is power.

After she began suffering back spasms in 1988, Jensen said she learned all she could about what treatment options were available.

"I have tried just about everything," Jensen said. "It was a massage therapist that actually figured out what was wrong."

In addition to massage and acupuncture, Jensen sought out treatment in Sparks, where the growth in population has trig-

gered expansion of health-care services previously available only in Reno.

Jensen is a patient at Silver State Spinecare, which specializes in non-invasive treatment for back and neck pain and carpal tunnel syndrome.

"When I opened in Novem-

SEE SPARKS ON 6D

## Sparks/Health-care services trying to keep up with growth

### From 1D

ber, no one in Sparks was offering this service," said Dr. Forrest Burke, medical director of Spinecare. "I get plenty of people from the south part of town and east of town."

Spinecare, located at 1055 Roberta Lane off Pyramid Way, specializes in non-operative techniques including EMG nerve testing, spinal injections, carpal tunnel injections and home exercise programs.

Jensen travels from Reno for treatment, but most of Dr. Burke's patients are from Sparks

and outlying areas.

Susan Hill, director of marketing at Northern Nevada Medical Center, said Sparks is in need of specialty and primary care and that NNMC is actively recruiting physicians, internists and pediatricians.

"The Sparks area is projected to grow 20 percent over the next five years and Spanish Springs is expected to grow 30 percent," Hill said of the hospital's analysis of the area. "That is very healthy growth and more people want to get service where they live and work."

Both Northern Nevada Medical Center and Washoe Medical Center announced expanded services in Sparks this month, including physical therapy at Washoe Med's Family & Urgent Care Center and a new cardiac catheterization lab at NNMC.

Hill said the hospital's expansion two years ago was to keep up with growth.

"You see that growth trend in Sparks," Hill said. "Health care is just a bit behind retail in development."

Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center has partnered with

NNMC in the recruitment of physicians to Sparks and is researching the community's needs for primary care and urgent care, said Katie Nannini, spokesperson for Saint Mary's.

Residents of Spanish Springs do not have an urgent care clinic in the immediate area.

As a native of Northern Nevada and a Sparks resident, Dr. Burke said filling a need in the community was one of the things he considered when opening his practice. He graduated from medical school at the

University of Nevada, Reno in 1995.

"I take time with each patient to figure out what the missing factor is," he said. "I don't overbook patients."

Jensen said she appreciates the time Dr. Burke takes and his openness to non-traditional medical options. And she is willing to travel to Sparks for it.

"You can't mention acupuncture to some doctors because they look down on it," Jensen said. "But it works. And Dr. Burke's treatment has been just as effective."