

Doc takes different approach to healing

MARK M. MORRIS
58, Livingston

Occupation

Nontraditional doctor with a practice in Springfield. Morris, a board-certified physician who completed an internship and residency in pediatrics, has a hands-on approach to medicine — literally. Morris specializes in cranial osteopathy, a manual modality of treatment for adults, children and infants.

"I'm the physician of last resort for a lot of families," Morris said. "When they've all but given up on getting better, they come to me."

And in some cases, he comes to them. Morris often makes house calls to his patients, especially those who are developmentally disabled. One of his patients can only be treated while he's asleep, necessitating the home visits.

"If a child can't be still in an office setting, or finds it difficult to go out of their house, I'm willing to come to them," he said.

By relying less on traditional diagnostic tools such as X-rays, MRIs and CAT scans, and more on a lengthy examination and comprehensive medical history that includes details of their birth, Morris believes he can better diagnose chronic problems such as colic, digestive disorders, learning disabilities, back and neck pain, joint pain, fatigue and dizziness.

"I tend to spend a lot of time with my patients," he said.

Morris does not accept medical insurance. He also tends to avoid medications for his patients because they can have an "overwhelming effect," especially for children.

Engineer to physician

Morris was accepted into medical school at the age of 49, after a 30-year career as a sound and lighting engineer. During his first career, he designed the sound system at the legendary music venue CBGB's in New York City and was the traveling sound and lighting engineer for performers such as Fleetwood Mac, Santana, Cat Stevens and George Harrison. In addition, he was assistant technical director and sound engineer for Bill Graham's Fillmore East and Fillmore West concert halls in New York and San Francisco.

"It was time to start working with people instead of things," Morris said of the career change.

Education

Doctor of osteopathic medicine, University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Biddeford, Maine.

Bachelor of arts, human psychology program, New College of California, San Francisco, Calif.

Early inspiration

Morris said he was introduced to osteopathic medicine as a young man.

"I had a bone spur pressing [See **DOCTOR**, Page 43]



Nontraditional physician Mark Morris relies more on lengthy examinations and comprehensive medical histories to diagnose patients, rather than traditional diagnostic tools such as X-rays, MRIs and CAT scans.

DOCTOR

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on a nerve in my neck, and had been in pain for months. Doctors told me surgery wasn't an option. They were giving me medication for pain. I went to this little Chinese woman who worked on my neck and told me to come back in a week. I came back, and a short time later I was free of pain for the first time in months. I gave her a lot of money, but I had my life back."

Preference for Volvos

All three cars in the Morris family are made by Volvo.

"I fit in them, and they're safe," said the tall, burly Morris.

Family

Wife, Louise Goldsmith; sons, Julian, 10 and Ethan, 8.

—Mark Angeles