

SAVAGE PACER



BREAKING NEWS ONLINE AT WWW.SAVAGEPACER.COM



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE SCHUSTER

A bill to legalize recreational marijuana reached the floor of the Minnesota House for the first time in history last year. Since the bill's passage in the House, conversations aimed at preparing for legalization have been picking up speed in local communities.

Forecasting change

Local officials discuss potential impacts of marijuana legalization

BY CHRISTINE SCHUSTER
cschuster@swpub.com

Local leaders are taking a closer look at how recreational marijuana might impact communities as the nation's trend toward adult-use legalization is forecasted to reach Minnesota in the coming years.

A bill to legalize recreational marijuana reached the floor of the Minnesota House for the first time in history last year. The legislation passed with a 72-61 vote, but the companion bill died in the Republican-controlled Senate.

State Rep. Jess Hanson, a first-term

Democrat representing Savage and northwest Burnsville, is among the most vocal supporters of marijuana legalization at the Minnesota Capitol.

Hanson previously led the Minnesota Campaign for Full Legalization, a non-profit advocacy group, and she's spent time between sessions leading conversations on legalization with local elected officials and community members.

Hanson's efforts are supported by Sen. Lindsey Port (DFL-Burnsville), who ousted the district's longtime Republican senator, Dan Hall, in 2020.

Democratic state lawmakers in support of legalization envision creating

a regulated marketplace to offer safe, legal access to marijuana while also addressing racial injustices found in the current system.

"The roots of prohibition have been, and still are, very deeply rooted in racism," Hanson told the Burnsville City Council last month.

Black Minnesotans are over five times more likely to be arrested in connection with marijuana than white Minnesotans, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Studies show both groups report using marijuana at similar rates.

Marijuana to 2 >

HEALTH

Nonprofit clinic

Serving those in need

page 3 >

COMMUNITY

New author

Savage woman pens novel

page 4 >

OUTDOORS



Fast pronghorns

Clocked at 55 mph

page 5 >

SCHOOLS

COVID surge

Return to distance learning

page 16 >

INDEX

OPINION.....	6
OBITUARIES.....	8
SPORTS.....	10
CLASSIFIEDS.....	14

HOW TO REACH US

SUBSCRIBE: 952-445-3333
EDITOR: 952-345-6376 OR
EDITOR@SAVAGEPACER.COM
ONLINE: SAVAGEPACER.COM

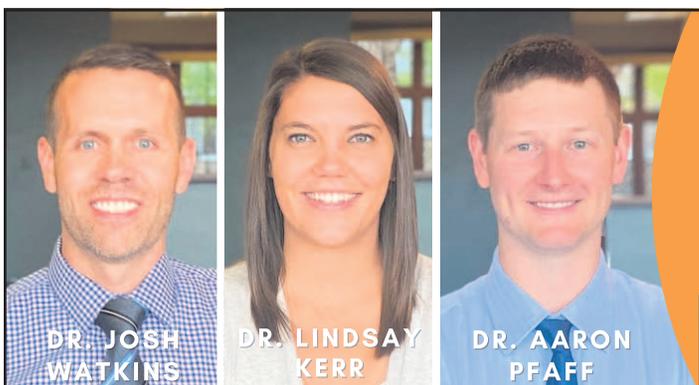
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

FACEBOOK.COM/
SAVAGEPACER
TWITTER.COM/
SAVAGEPACER

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 25

swnewsmedia

© 2022 MEDIANEWS GROUP



WATKINS
Family Chiropractic
Savage • 952.440.4553

Minnesota Monthly Best Chiropractors