

Wellness Cannabis Dispensary to come to New Braunfels

By Keri Heath

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After his grandmother passed away from cancer two and a half years ago, Ben Sanchez, and his wife Karina, wanted to find a way to help people be more comfortable.

The couple already owned a business and decided to put their entrepreneurial spirit to work. Ben Sanchez said they had been interested in providing health and wellness cannabis for a while.

April 20 will see the grand opening of Go Green Botanicals, which will sell cannabidiol (CBD) oil products. Ben and Karina Sanchez and Ben's father, Ben Sanchez, are co-owners with Maurice Salazar.

Sanchez said he wants to help ease people, like his grandmother, who are experiencing pain.

"If I would have known about this, it could have helped her (be) comfortable," Sanchez said. "That's really my motive is to help people."

There is a significant difference between what Go Green Botanicals sells and recreational marijuana.

Salazar said state legislation passed at the end of last year allowed CBD extracts with low levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to be purchased without a prescription.

"(There's) no euphoric aspect with it, no intoxication aspects with it," Salazar said. "The data tells us this is true."

This legislation followed the 2015 Texas Compassionate Use Act, which allowed registered physicians to prescribe low-THC cannabis to treat certain illnesses, such as epilepsy.

The products sold at Go Green Botanicals are CBD products are hemp derived. Marijuana and hemp come from different plants in the same family, with THC higher in the marijuana plant and CBD higher in the hemp plant.

Sanchez said the products may contain up to 0.3 percent TCH, but the majority of products are THC-free.

No doctor prescription will be required to buy products at Go Green Botanicals. Sanchez said he hopes more sellers come into the area to provide people broad availability.

"We want it at arms reach for people," Sanchez said. "Look at how many Walgreens and CVSs there are. We need to do the same thing."

Sanchez said he is excited to educate the public about the possibilities of using cannabis for wellness purposes.

"The last thing I want is the young kids coming in here thinking they're going to get a buzz off this," Sanchez said. "This is for only medicinal purposes. It is considered supplemental."

Already, Go Green Botanicals is looking at opening a branch in San Antonio within the year. A native of New Braunfels, Sanchez and his wife already own a cleaning business in the city and enjoy helping people come home to a clean house.

“It just feels good to really help somebody, so that’s why we figured this is going to help somebody in a bigger way, much, much bigger way,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez said he has received a lot of support from the community already and hopes that by opening this shop, others will come to the area.

Go Green Botanicals is located at 2090 North Interstate 25, Suite 410 with planned business hours of 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.