

Home delivery of marijuana and social consumption of marijuana products will not be part of the legal marijuana industry when it launches in Massachusetts this summer.

a move that addressed two of the most commonly condemned parts of the agency's draft industry regulations.

The commission's proposed

opposed legalizing marijuana called on the commission to scale back the industry envisioned in its draft regulations at least until an initial retail market takes hold.

the 2010 ballot law and authorized under the state's legal marijuana laws.

The commission also agreed

SEE CANNABIS, PAGE A2

SPRINGFIELD

Repub. P.1 2/27/18

# First day of school



At right, dealer Shelly Littlejohn instructs Aaron Baru, of Longmeadow, yesterday at the Massachusetts Casino Career Training Institute in Springfield. Photo gallery at [masslive.com](http://masslive.com).

(DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)

**"By the time you hit the casino floor, you will all be professionals at using your hands."**

Angel Rivera, MCCTI instructor



## Dealers in training eye new gaming careers

By **JIM KINNEY**  
[jkinney@repub.com](mailto:jkinney@repub.com)

**U**se your index finger to cut the chips.

Use your middle finger to deal the cards.

Don't tilt your head.

Don't turn your back on the players.

Keep smiling. Keep talking.

Aspiring casino dealer Aaron Baru, of Longmeadow, thought he had a lot to keep in mind working as a restaurant waiter. But he hadn't seen anything until he started school at the Massachusetts Casino Career Training Institute, where he's learning how to deal blackjack with hopes of getting a job at MGM Springfield.

"Don't be nervous," said Baru, 27. "Just do it. Now is the time to make mistakes — here, and not when you are working in front of players."

Yesterday was the first day of class at the school at MGM's 95 State St. building. There were 26 students in the morning blackjack class. Another 30 students were signed up for afternoon sessions, also in blackjack. Classes will start soon in roulette, craps and baccarat.

The school is a cooperative effort between MGM Resorts International, Springfield Technical Community College and Holyoke Community College.

Students who pass at least two, but

preferably three, courses are eligible to try out for jobs on the casino floor of MGM Springfield, the \$960 million resort under construction in the South End. The casino is expected to open in September.

MGM Springfield expects to interview more than 1,000 potential dealers to hire the staff it needs for the casino floor. The casino will need 450 table games dealers and about 100 additional dealers who specialize only in poker. Eighty

SEE CASINO, PAGE A2

...ion, there was plenty of melodrama  
 nal moments. With her potential evic-  
 ming, she had one last chance to plead  
 e in front of the four other remaining  
 uests. After an impassioned entreaty,  
 sa's fellow competitors unanimously  
 er out. For the past 2½ weeks, the most  
 g question at the beginning of each ep-  
 as been, "What's she gonna say next?"  
 ormer Trump insider spent most of her  
 time revealing juicy tidbits about the  
 orkings of the West Wing. Omarosa  
 he season with a bang, diving imme-  
 th stint as a White House communi-  
 ears in her eyes, she told houseguest  
 e was "haunted" by President Donald  
 ngle day." When asked for reassur-  
 the Trump White House, Omarosa  
 gonna not be okay. It's not. It's so bad."  
 n't vote for Trump again "in a million

MASS CASH		
	Feb. 26	18-21-26-27-32
Evening	Feb. 25	5-16-27-28-32
4508	Feb. 24	4-8-15-26-34
\$5,673	<b>MEGABUCKS</b>	
\$794	Feb. 24	9-11-12-18-25-39
\$68	Doubler: 8	
\$7	Estimated jackpot: \$800,000	
\$236	Feb. 21	5-10-12-23-39-48
\$132	Doubler: 6	
\$132	<b>LUCKY FOR LIFE</b>	
3694	Feb. 26	6-11-16-37-28
1081	Lucky Ball: 11	
0862	Feb. 22	6-23-32-35-42
6125	Lucky Ball: 8	
0072	<b>POWERBALL</b>	
9346	Feb. 24	24-25-38-62-63
13-19-58	Powerball: 6; Power Play: 2	
	Estimated jackpot: \$293 million	
3-24-43	Feb. 21	7-15-31-34-36
	Powerball: 8; Power Play: 3	

## RIES

obituaries can be found in today's  
 e obituaries and sign the guest book at  
 es.

**Morin, Adrienne**  
**Nash, Michael T.**  
**Pelczar, John**  
**Reed, Kenneth V.**  
**Samson, Evelyn**  
**Shaver, Lee Henry**  
**Vandal, Marcel P.A.**  
**Vincent, Gerard F.**  
**Wenzel, Deborah L.**

## Casino

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

percent will be full time and about 20 percent will be part time.

Following their interviews, successful dealers will be given a date of hire. But that date will depend on how quickly construction work has gone.

Dealers earn most of their pay through tips. The base pay will be about \$5 an hour, but tips can push that to \$20 to \$30 an hour.

Classes will run all spring and summer, and enrollment is still open. Information about the school is available at mccti.org.

For Samantha White, of Springfield, the prospect of moving up at MGM is as attractive as the pay.

"This is my third career," the 28-year-old said. "And hopefully my last."

A Connecticut native, she's worked most recently as a medical assistant. It was her work in construction that took her to Vegas. She worked building the Planet Hollywood casino on the Las Vegas



Classes began yesterday at the Massachusetts Casino Career Training Institute in Springfield. Students who pass at least two courses are eligible to try out for jobs on the casino floor at MGM Springfield, which opens in the fall. (DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)

Strip.

"I love the hustle and the bustle of the casino floor," she said. "I hope to get experience here with MGM and then go back to UNLV for a degree in hospitality."

Instructor Chris Rothstein, a shift manager for MGM, said a big part of the first day of blackjack class is getting students used to the feel of the chips and the cards. They also have to get used to

following the proper procedures for everything so their hands are in the right position and so the casino surveillance cameras can see everything that happens.

"We have to start at the beginning," he said. "How many cards are in a deck? How many suits are there in a deck?"

Much of what a dealer does is tactile: handling cards and chips.



Angel Rivera of Springfield instructs students yesterday at the Massachusetts Casino Career Training Institute. (DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)

"The hardest thing to do is to hold 20 chips at a time," White said. "Then you cut them off with your fingers. I need to work on using my hands."

She's not alone. Instructors all over the room kept their students chatting and interacting, all the while counting and stacking chips.

"It's in the hands," instructor Angel Rivera said. "By the time you hit the casino floor, you will all be professionals at using your hands."

## Cannabis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

that, if or when it authorizes delivery and social consumption licenses, it will grant the exclusive rights to those licenses to small businesses, businesses in the commission's social equity program, craft cooperatives and certain farmers for a period of time in order to mitigate the effects of the delay in licensing.

"It was clear looking at the feedback that there was hesitance and lack of confidence in how the process will play out, and I think it's important for our commission to develop relationships where people feel that they can trust us, they can look to us to be answering the questions and

**"Now the timing is perfect to create an equitable market."**

Shanel Lindsay, Cannabis Advisory Board

run into significant problems, but she "failed to appreciate" the additional difficulties that would come with delivering recreational marijuana.

"I'm concerned about compliance and I don't feel like I have enough information at this point," Doyle said. "I am not yet at a point where I feel comfortable saying that we have these problems solved, we have an answer or a solution for the compliance

Title suggested a five-year period of exclusivity; the commission did not agree on the period's length.

Though he voted for delay, Chairman Steven Hoffman said he was "very concerned" about deferring the licensing of delivery and social consumption and said he "reject(s) the argument that we can't do it in time."

Asked after yesterday's meeting what made him comfortable voting in favor of the delay after expressing concern about it, Hoffman said it was the combination of giving small businesses the first crack at those licenses and the specific timeline the commission agreed to follow.

"I would not have agreed to the delay without that explicit timeline about identifying

fidence in the commission," Title said.

Shanel Lindsay, a cannabis entrepreneur and industry consultant who serves on the Cannabis Advisory Board and supported the commission's social consumption regulations, said yesterday's decision represented "a huge win for equity and small business."

"The delay with the exclusivity for equity and small business is the best case scenario. If everything launched at the same time, the only ones who would have had product and inventory are the large dispensaries. They would have cornered the market while all of the small business and equity owners were just trying to get up and running," she said. "Now the