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Jefferson City

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JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2005

50 CENTS

Convenience stores to lose liquor licenses for 3-5 days

Hollywood's absolved of responsibility in shooting

By KRIS HILGEDICK
News Tribune

Four local convenience stores will lose their liquor licenses for three to five days, but a downtown nightclub owner has escaped penalty by the Jefferson City Liquor Control Board.

The temporary license suspensions came for the December sales of alcohol to minor.

Law enforcement officials on Dec. 4 charged cashiers from three

Jefferson City Break Time stores and a Zip Stop store with the misdemeanor crime of supplying alcohol to a minor. They allegedly sold beer to a 17-year-old undercover informant working for the Highway Patrol.

On Friday, each Break Time store received a three-day suspension and will not be allowed to sell alcohol on March 11-13.

The Zip Stop received a five-day suspension and will be barred from selling alcohol March 9-13.

Finance Director Steve Schlueter, who sits on the Liquor

Control Board, said different penalties were levied because Break Time has a comprehensive training and prevention program in place.

"Break Time, during their hearing, presented information that shows they offer extensive training to employees and have a program in place to card people under age 30," said Schlueter. "Three individuals failed to follow those policies."

He said Zip Stop's procedures were not as vigilant.

He said the board can't man-

date training be a part of a company's operation.

The Break Time stores are located at 1940 W. Main St., 1200 Missouri Blvd., and 627 Clark Ave. The Zip Stop is at 1921-A Missouri Blvd.

A downtown tavern, Hollywood's Entertainment, also faced possible discipline by the board last week regarding a Nov. 5 shooting incident.

According to Jefferson City police, patrons who were asked to leave the bar spilled into the street and exchanged gunfire.

Schlueter said the Liquor Control Board was unable to find Hollywood's responsible for the incident.

Because downtown tavern fights tend to spill into the public right-of-way, instead of a private parking lot, it's difficult to hold any one business accountable, city officials have said.

"There were a lot of circumstances the board had to take into consideration," he said.

"And we didn't feel we had enough facts to make a determination."