

YOUR REGION

A5

■ YourHome

A7

■ YourWorld

A10

■ Editorials

A12

NEW HAVEN COUNTY

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Convicted burglar nabbed again

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writer

LFORD — A convicted burglar already facing six years in jail long string of house break- has been arrested on a new charge.

ederick Brenckmann, 33, of ley Avenue, New Haven, was act this week with third-degree burglary, second-degree larceny and conspiracy. He is accused and taking \$6,000 worth of mel figurines and jewelry.

Brenckmann also is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 21 in New Haven Superior Court for two counts of third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny and violating probation. He was on probation at the time of the New Haven arrests, and owed 11 years probation for a previous burglary conviction.

Brenckmann, however, did not act alone in committing the burglaries, according to court papers. During the past two years, he and two other men went door to door in the greater New Haven area, ringing doorbells to see if

anyone was home, according to the arrest warrant affidavit. If someone answered, they pretended they wanted to clean the chimney, the affidavit states, and left. If no one was home, they'd break in, according to the document.

"This is a bunch of kids with a drug problem," said Tara Knight, Brenckmann's attorney in New Haven. "It's a medical problem he [Brenckmann] has. It ruined him and now, he's paying the price for it." She added that Brenckmann is not violent.

Five similar cases are pending against Brenckmann in New Haven, and five cases are pending in Meriden Superior Court.

Brenckmann was being held in lieu of bonds totaling \$148,000. At his arraignment in Superior Court this week on the West Haven burglary charge, Judge Jack Grogans increased his bond by \$500. He is to appear in court again Monday.

The arrest warrant affidavit gives the following account:

On Jan. 23, Brenckmann burglarized a home on Main Street in West Haven and took about 12

Hummel figurines from a glass case on the first floor. He then went upstairs and took several jewelry pieces.

Brenckmann, the affidavit continues, pawned some items at a Nice Pawn Shop in Milford and gave four or five of the figurines to a friend's father in exchange for crack cocaine. His friend took the remaining figurines to Investments West Pawn Shop in West Haven.

■ Angela Pascopella, who covers Milford and Superior Court, can be reached at 878-2130.