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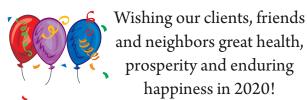
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Orinda detective recognized for work with FBI, and nabbing 'the shaggy bank robber'

beyond a reasonable doubt to

file charges. The FBI wrote a

search warrant for the suspect's

house in Oakland. At the time,

the Ramie warrant was still ac-

agency that had a warrant out

tive. Orinda PD was the only

for Makela's arrest.



Detective Denny Cai recognized

Photo Sora O'Doherty

... continued from Page A1 The FBI planned to do a search to find anything related to the robberies. On April 23, On April 17 Makela was in the city of Orinda when his 19 search warrants were executed. Cai - the only police demother called him around the partment detective involved in time of the robbery. The call was captured by a cell phone the search – met the FBI at a tower near the bank. A couple parking lot where 30 to 40 FBI of hours earlier, Makela's cell agents gathered. Oakland police phone pinged off in Walnut helped by closing off the road. Creek, where the vehicle was When the group executed the warrants, the agents found disstolen. Cai now had probable cause to believe that Makela guises, fake facial hair, and a BB was the suspect. He obtained a gun. A vehicle search revealed a Ramie warrant – a prepipe bomb, which the Alameda complaint warrant that by-County bomb squad determined passes the district attorney who was a hoax bomb. is looking for something proven

According to Makela's father, who was at the house being searched, Makela's wife had just given birth and his son was at Kaiser Oakland. Ramie warrant in hand, Cai and another Orinda police officer asked an Oakland sergeant for a couple of Oakland officers to join them.

In plain clothes, Cai knocked on the door, walked in and identified himself, he recalls, "then I took control of him, put him in handcuffs," adding, "Unfortunately the wife had to see all this." Cai told Makela he was under arrest for bank robbery and took his property – a laptop suitcase that contained a BB gun, methamphetamines, lottery tickets, and more than six cell phones.

Makela eventually confessed to the robberies and was charged with 19 counts, to which he pleaded guilty. Makela remains in jail pending sentencing in January. The 19 bank robberies netted him about \$70,000.

The Orinda City Council recognized Cai's accomplishment at its Dec. 3 meeting. Cai was also recognized as the Officer of the Year in 2016.

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