



AUSTIN POLICE
Trace Bank accounts

Bike Thief Accomplice?



COURTESY OF APD

A second arrest was made in the case of accused bicycle burglar James Clayton, who was arrested Feb. 3 and charged with boosting several high-end mountain and road bikes. Clayton's reported girlfriend, 29-year-old Layne Severson (pictured), was arrested last Thursday and charged with felony money laundering after Austin police discovered that

proceeds from the online sale of bikes stolen by Clayton were being deposited into a PayPal account connected to Severson's checking account. Detective Scott Askew said three complete bikes and nearly 20 disassembled bikes have been recovered from Clayton's residence and a rented storage locker so far. Police say Clayton frequented local bike racing events, befriended individuals within that community, and then burglarized them. When bike culture blog Austin Texas Bike Stuff (www.atxbs.com) reposted a Craigslist ad accusing Clayton of bike theft last December, Severson was the first to reply in Clayton's defense, according to blogger Jason Abels. Askew said a tip on another possible accomplice is being investigated. — Daniel Mattola