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Metro

# Donations pour in to replace Globe Santa gifts stolen from 4-year-old boy in Salem

By Matt Rocheleau | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT DECEMBER 24, 2012

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A grinch tried to steal Christmas from a Salem woman and her four-year-old boy, but local residents brimming with Yuletide cheer have helped restore their holiday spirit.

On Thursday, the 26-year-old mother told Salem police that toys donated through the Globe Santa program, which provides gifts for children in need, had been stolen.

Salem police Lieutenant Conrad Prosniewski said the package the toys were shipped in was found cut open and empty in the hallway to the apartment building where the woman and her son live.

Shortly after Boston TV station WHDH aired a report about the theft Sunday, Prosniewski said, calls started coming in with offers to help the family, whom police did not name. People started bringing in toys to the police station. One man came with his two sons, who had used their allowance money to buy the

presents.

“To watch these people come out for something like this I guess that’s what Christmas is all about,” Prosniewski said. “It’s heartwarming to see.”

Police brought some of the donated toys to the house Sunday afternoon.

“She was crying she so was happy,” Prosniewski said. “What she doesn’t know is there’s a bunch more coming.”

Police plan to drop off the rest of the toys off Monday afternoon -- more than a dozen bags of them.

“This four-year-old is going to have one heck of a Christmas,” said Prosniewski.

*Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com).*

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## 55-foot fishing boat sinks off Fish Pier in Boston

Officials are unsure how or why a 55-foot fishing vessel named Miss Biddle sank off the Fish Pier in Boston Harbor early Monday morning, the US Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard received a report at 5 a.m. Monday of a sunken fishing vessel in the harbor.

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An appeals court has upheld a voluntary manslaughter conviction in the 2007 death of a woman caught in a crossfire between rival gangs in Dorchester.

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## Menino says he hopes to return home in 10 days

Mayor Thomas Menino has been living at city-owned Parkman House since he left Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital last month.

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## Boston judge got free aid worth \$85,000

A prominent law firm paid for Judge Raymond Dougan's defense as he successfully fought a bias complaint from the Suffolk district attorney.

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## City Council reelects Stephen Murphy as leader

Murphy will be first in the line of succession if Mayor Thomas M. Menino, 70, leaves office before his term expires at the end of the 2013.

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Court Administrator Lewis H. "Harry" Spence, appointed last spring, sent a letter weighing in on the discipline case of Robert E. Powers.

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A federal appeals court refused to overturn the decades-old conviction of a marijuana dealer who claimed FBI agents lied in his case to protect James "Whitey" Bulger.

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## Judging the judge in the Whitey Bulger case

At a hearing today, Bulger's lawyers are seeking the ouster of US District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns from the case due to a conflict of interest.

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## Lantigua ally denies charge, released

**Jose L. Santiago of Lawrence, a former state representative and former Methuen police officer, is accused of violating a restraining order from an ex-girlfriend.**

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## **Driver with an 11-page record held after ninth OUI**

**William Doten, 65, was arrested last Thursday when police found his red pickup truck stopped in the middle of West Main Street in Avon.**

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## **Bogus officer hits woman in Wareham**

**Wareham police are searching for a man who impersonated a police officer and hit a woman in the face with a flashlight after pulling her over in her car.**

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## **Man is accused of killing his mother**

**A Springfield man is being held without bail after pleading not guilty to killing his mother and later stealing and crashing a taxicab.**

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