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# Around the Nation

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## Confession Frees Man Serving Life for Murder

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Oct. 14 (UPI) — A man who spent nearly four years in prison for a murder another man has confessed was released today from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

"I feel great," said Melvin Lee Reynolds as he walked out of the Buchanan County Courthouse, freed after another man confessed the murder for which Mr. Reynolds was serving a life term.

Technically, he is still guilty of the 1978 slaying of 4-year-old Eric Christgen. But Judge Frank Connett Jr. of Buchanan County Circuit Court ordered Mr. Reynolds freed on his own recognizance until a Nov. 21 hearing to determine whether the conviction should be lifted.

Mr. Reynolds had confessed the killing after more than 17 hours of questioning. He later retracted it.

Charles Hatcher, accused in another murder, pleaded guilty to capital murder in the death of the Christgen youth. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole for 50 years for the boy's murder.