

# THE PANTAGRAPH

## 1998-1999

Local newspaper headlines  
in sequential order showing  
what a wrongful conviction looks like from  
beginning to end. See the case unfold  
by headlines alone that tell the  
complete story.

### **Father accused of murder shows girl's photo to court**

**Saturday, August 22, 1998**

By STEVE ARNEY  
Pantagraph staff

According to police statements contained in court files, McNeil repeatedly blamed his girlfriend, who police have ruled out as a suspect. McNeil said two small holes in the bedroom window screen proved she lifted up the screen, crawled through the window and smothered the girl in the bed, police say.

# Father suspected of killing girl wants to see lab reports

October 17, 1998

Authorities do not accept his explanation that an intruder, perhaps a woman he knows, broke into his home on North Evans Street late June 15 or early June 16 and smothered the girl.

# Murder suspect upset with proceedings

October 23, 1998

In letters to the court and media, Mc-  
Neil blames an acquaintance.

# Judge limits evidence in B-N child-killing case

February 4, 1999

A McLean County judge ruled Wednesday that only limited evidence may be presented suggesting another suspect might have murdered the child of a Bloomington man who now stands accused of smothering his 3-year-old daughter.

# Judge disallows McNeil new evidence

March 5, 1999

A McLean County judge ruled Thursday that despite new evidence, defense attorneys for murder suspect Barton McNeil will not be allowed to argue that his ex-girlfriend smothered his 3-year-old daughter.

McNeil, 39, of the 1100 block of North Evans Street, has maintained that Misook Nowlin, who prefers to go by the name Misook Kim, entered his apartment while he was asleep and killed his daughter, Christina, last June.

Authorities have ruled out Kim as a suspect.



# Sex abuse angle approved in B-N father's murder trial

March 20, 1999

McNeil has maintained that his ex-girlfriend, Misook Nowlin, who prefers to go by the name Misook Kim, was responsible for his daughter's death. Authorities have ruled out Kim as a suspect and Prall ruled in an earlier hearing that defense attorneys will not be allowed to argue she killed the girl.

## Judge denies more DNA tests in child-slaying case

May 6, 1999

In March, Prall barred defense attorneys from arguing that McNeil's former girlfriend murdered the child.



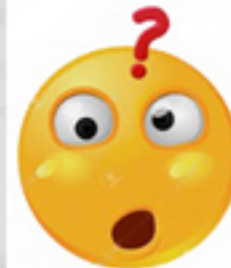
## Accused child killer to get bench trial

May 19, 1999



## County won't pay for DNA tests for accused child killer

May 29, 1999



# **Trial begins in McNeil murder case**

July 2, 1999

In the same statement, McNeil said he's certain his daughter died of asphyxiation and he believes a woman that he had a bitter break-up with was responsible.



# McNeil gets life in prison

August 12, 1999

Barton McNeil denied killing Christina in his testimony at trial and in taped statements to police. He theorized that an intruder must have climbed through a bedroom window and killed the child while he slept in another room.

When offered an opportunity to make a statement prior to sentencing, Barton McNeil launched into a 45-minute discourse in which he raged that police failed to adequately investigate the case and griped that his defense was hampered by pretrial rulings which barred his defense team from presenting evidence pointing to the woman he claims is the killer.

# Transcript of McNeil addressing the court:

MR. MCNEIL: If I can get anything out in allocution or anything, and if this leads to saving whoever the next victim is, I don't care. I don't care if I spend the rest of my life in prison. Give me the death penalty, whatever. But I'm not going to stop until these people are stopped. And, and if I can prevent the death of another child or another woman -- And I'm not the first



## Woman charged in slaying

B-N resident accused of strangling mother-in-law

By Kevin Barlow  
kbarlow@pantagraph.com

Wildlife Park.

Misook Wang, 45, is charged with three counts of murder, and one



Misook Wang

ed near Joliet. She appeared in McLean County Circuit Court on Wednesday and remains in McLean County jail in lieu of posting \$100,000.

First Assistant State's Attorney Jane Foster said Wang and her husband were having marital problems. After a verbal confrontation with Tyda in Crest Hill, Wang made travel arrange-

Wang then paid \$20 to an employee of a Twin City restaurant to call Tyda and offer her money to transport a client from Bloomington to a Chinese school in Chicago on Sept. 5, Foster said.

After Tyda was reported missing the following day, Crest Hill police checked her cell phone records that indicated she had placed a call while in Bloom-

bers, including Wang.

During an interview with Bloomington police, detectives noticed several injuries to Wang's arms and legs, according to a probable cause statement Foster read in court. A search warrant was issued for Wang's home and business, Kim's Sewing and Accessories. During that search, a garbage bag con-