

**JAN. 11:** Schrenker fuels up his Piper aircraft - registered to Heritage Wealth Management - files a flight plan to Destin, Fla., and takes off from the Anderson, Ind., airport.

**7:34 P.M.:** Schrenker's **KY** aircraft levels off at 3,500 feet and makes course corrections that carry it closer to Harpersville, Ala.

**7:20 P.M.:** Over northern Alabama, Schrenker radioes the Federal Aviation Administration control center in Atlanta reporting moderate to severe turbulence. No other aircraft in the region report turbulence. The air traffic controller suggests Schrenker descend from his altitude of 24,000 feet. He declines.

**ABOUT 7:23 P.M.:** Schrenker radioes that his windshield is cracking and requests an emergency descent.

**7:27 P.M.:** Over central Alabama, Schrenker radioes that the windshield has pierced his neck and he is "bleeding profusely" and "losing altitude." He reports he has three hours of fuel and is pointing his aircraft toward the Gulf of Mexico. At an altitude of 8,700 feet - cabin pressurization is not needed below 10,000 feet - Schrenker tells air traffic controllers that his controls are locked and he is feeling as if he might pass out.

**7:30 P.M.:** Schrenker radioes that he is not going to make it.

**ABOUT 7:49 P.M.:** Schrenker jumps from the aircraft over Childersburg, Ala. Coast Guard officials later recover a parachute and identify it as one Schrenker bought in fall 2008. Around this time, the Coast Guard responds.

**LATER THAT EVENING:** Schrenker goes to a nearby home and tells the owner that he was in a canoeing accident on the Coosa River with his friends and needs to meet them in Harpersville.

**3 A.M., JAN. 12:** Schrenker repeats the story to a Childersburg police officer, who takes him to the storage facility for the rendezvous. Schrenker registers at a Harpersville motel using his half brother's identity but does not stay there. He returns to the storage locker and takes off for Florida on his motorcycle. He stays in a KOA campground in Chattahoochee, Fla.

#### FOUND WITH SCHRENKER

- Laptop computer and peripheral devices
- Handheld GPS device
- Cell phone
- Maps of KOA campground as well as the missing pages from the road atlas (of Florida and Alabama).
- Wallet containing credit cards, identification and FAA medical forms for both Schrenker and his brother
- Motel keycard

#### WHILE SCHRENKER IS TRAVELING TO FLORIDA // ABOUT 8 P.M., JAN. 11:

Based on Schrenker's distress call but not knowing he has left the plane, two F-15 fighter jets are dispatched. The pilots' mission is to assess Schrenker's condition. Multiple Coast Guard vessels and helicopters are dispatched to the Gulf and surrounding areas to assist with search and rescue. The jets follow the plane until it crashes in a swampy, wooded area approximately one mile north of Milton, Fla., about 200 feet from a residential neighborhood.

#### THE BUILD-UP

**1989:** Marcus Schrenker graduates Merrillville High School.

**1991:** Schrenker acquires a pilot license.

**1993:** Schrenker graduates Purdue University.

**1994 TO 2006:** After stints in Fishers, Ind., and Atlanta, Schrenker moves to Geist, Ind., near Indianapolis.

**JULY 26, 2006:** Heritage Wealth Management Inc. is incorporated in Indiana. Marcus Schrenker is listed as the registered agent.

**DEC. 30, 2008:** Schrenker's wife, Michelle, files for divorce.

**DEC. 31:** Indiana officials, investigating possible securities violations, search Schrenker's home for documents and computers related to Heritage Wealth Management in Indiana. Also, Schrenker's Indiana state financial adviser's license expires.

**JAN. 8:** While at his stepfather's wake in Crown Point, Schrenker borrows his half brother's driver's license and credit card, with which he purchases clothing, camping gear and a handheld GPS device from a store in Merrillville.

Later, an investigation reveals that on this day Schrenker also made Google searches for "how to jump out of the airplane when parachuting," "how to open a parachute," "how to calculate the drop zone when skydiving" and manufacturers of parachutes. Electronic forensic investigators also turn up evidence of previous searches for "requirements to get a Florida driver's license," "parachuting safety," "Florida birth certificate," "explosive decompression" and "securities fraud penalties."

**JAN. 9:** Heritage Wealth Management Inc. is ordered by a federal judge in Maryland to pay \$533,500 to OM Financial Life Insurance Co. The lawsuit accused Heritage of breaching terms of a sales contract.

**JAN. 10:** Using his half brother's identification, Schrenker rents a storage locker in Harpersville, Ala. There, he stashes his red Yamaha motorcycle, saying he's having mechanical difficulties and needs the space only for a few days. Schrenker logs the storage unit's coordinates on the GPS device.

<< **JAN. 11: SEE LEFT.**

#### THE AFTERMATH

**JAN. 12:** Already skeptical of Schrenker's weather reports the previous night, FAA and Piper officials are unable to determine a mechanical cause for the crash. A search of the plane turns up a road atlas - with the Florida and Alabama pages missing - and notes related to the alleged windshield incident.

**JAN. 13:** Schrenker is arrested by U.S. marshals at the campground.

**JAN. 14:** Schrenker admits to U.S. marshals that he had radioed a false distress call and had intended for his plane to crash in the Gulf of Mexico.

**JUNE 5:** Schrenker pleads guilty in Florida court to destruction of an aircraft and causing the Coast Guard to respond when no help is needed.

**AUG. 19:** Schrenker is sentenced to 51 months in prison and ordered to pay \$906,000 restitution on the Florida charges.