

Local man is militia 'expert'

By MARIE CHESTNEY
Staff Writer

Joseph Ditzhazy, a Redford Township resident and the son of a former Farmington School Board trustee, has been thrust into the spotlight because of his knowledge of the Michigan Militia and other fringe groups operating in the state.

Ever since the Michigan Militia emerged in the investigation of last week's bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, Ditzhazy has been hopping from one radio or TV show to another, giving his views and "insider information."

On Monday, he flew to New York for interviews by the national media.

Ditzhazy, executive director of the Gun Owners of Southeastern Michigan and regional chairman for the exploratory committee to draft Colin Powell for President, has been facing press releases to journalists and to officials across the country, from President Clinton to Attorney General Janet Reno to U.S. Rep. John Dingell.

One fax purports to be a March 1995 two-page letter written by Ditzhazy to Vice President Al Gore, Jr.

In the letter, Ditzhazy tells Gore that he had told federal agencies about "fringe groups operating in significant strength in Michigan," and had gotten nowhere in alerting them to how dangerous the groups had become.

Ditzhazy names three men whom he says were involved in a conspiracy against Camp Grayling and tells Gore: "It's amazing that with such a clear and present

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Joseph Ditzhazy

danger reported the FBI, ATF, SS and 902nd of Michigan still are dragging their feet."

On Monday Ditzhazy said he had not received a response from the vice president.

Ditzhazy is the son of Helen Ditzhazy, who served many years as assistant principal of Thurston High and on the Farmington Board of Education.

Ditzhazy is a candidate for the Redford Union Board of Education in the June 12 school election.

In a communication to federal and state officials, Ditzhazy attributed the growth of the Michigan Militia to the "disaffected, dispossessed lower middle class" who ask "What about me?" as those who have made it move farther away from them economically.

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ligence, high school and community college educated people who have been pushed aside or who are stuck in the mire of jobs they hate, lives where they barely or don't meet their bills, working for bosses they hate in organizations who don't give a damn if they live or not.

"In fact, if they got sick or got arrested their co-workers would spend more time calling friends to inform them of a job opening than caring what might have happened to the co-worker."

Ditzhazy claims the bombers in Oklahoma City had broken from the Michigan Militia style of operations because "it wasn't proactive enough."

He called the bombing, "wrong, a tragedy."

Ditzhazy has predicted a "resurgence of Internal Discontent."

"I say a resurgence in that our nation's history is strewn with fringe groups committing violence to force local, county, state and the federal government to take real or imagined claims of grievances seriously. As part of the dumbing down of America, this is seldom studied in high school history."

About a year ago, Ditzhazy, then a Wilcox resident, was in the news locally when he was denied a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

In an emotionally-charged response, he said the Oakland County Concealed Weapons Board, which determines eligibility for a permit, and the Farmington Hills Police Department must have characterized him as "unstable."

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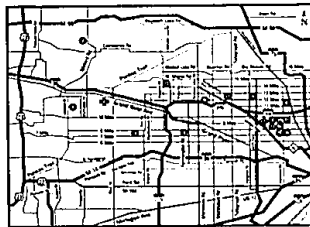
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