

KCEN-TV Tape 1 - Segment 32
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Feazell and Gartner disagree about the drug problem in McLennan County, beginning with its severity.

Clair
Gartner: My concern is with the alarming drug problem in McLennan County. Reports in the news media the past few months have labeled McLennan County and Central Texas as havens for those who sell and manufacture illegal drugs. *A*

Feazell: McLennan County has a problem with drugs - no more, no less than any of the other Central Texas counties; probably less.

Gartner claims Feazell has problems cooperating with various law enforcement agencies, and says that lack of cooperation is blunting anti-drug efforts in the county. Gartner said he would provide teamwork.

Gartner: It's an overall effect of getting more drug cases investigated, more drug cases prosecuted and the higher ups in the drug operations prosecuted.

Feazell says not true. He says his former battles with police over the filing of proper arrest warrants are over; that prosecution of drug cases has not suffered.

Feazell: Our office works real hard to prosecute drug pushers, drug possessors. We tried two drug cases last week. We got a life sentence on one of them for delivery of an illegal drug.

Gartner raised the drug issue at a news conference Thursday. He says his concern reflects the severity of the problem, and is not an effort to cash in on the recent anti-drug bandwagon. Feazell, however, claims the drug issue is being used as a political tool; just one more disagreement in the heated race for district attorney.

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