

The Lariat
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Fezell can still win, Demo chairman says

By Tim Lott

Lariat Reporter

The arrest of Vic Fezell was enough to keep McLennan County Democratic Party Chairman Gene Evans busy Wednesday.

"I've been talking to the media all day," Evans said.

With the district attorney election set for November, everyone wants to know if Fezell can still win?

Evans said the arrest of Fezell, who was released Monday afternoon on a \$100,000 unsecured bond was "no real surprise."

"I think he's gonna win," said Evans. "We've been waiting to hear something for a year and a half.

"A lot of people may think he's crooked, but the general 'John Lunchbucket' on the street will support Fezell.

"Vic is a very convincing guy."

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Fezell was convincing enough to beat his Republican opponent Paul Gartner handily in 1982.

Gartner faces a rematch with Fezell in November.

Republican Party Chairman M.A. Horton agreed with one of Evans' comments. "Everyone's been expecting this for a long time," he said.

"It's sad when an elected official is indicted. Federal indictments aren't taken lightly.

"They would have never brought this case to a head if they thought they couldn't win."

Does the Fezell arrest clear

the way for a Gartner victory, and a Republican district attorney?

"It was already going to be a close race, but Paul has a better chance now," Horton said.

Horton said the people of McLennan County are starting to realize they have a choice in political parties.

"I believe I'm going to be vindicated on this thing," Fezell said. "I think most people will see through it."

Gartner elected not to comment, but said he would make a statement today or Friday.

Fezell's press spokesman John Ben Sutter said Fezell would appear at a scheduled political rally tonight at the Heart O' Texas Fairgrounds.