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NO PENALTY FOR 'FLEETING EXPLETIVES'

Supreme Court lets TV networks off the hook

BY MICHAEL DOYLE
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court on Thursday let two television networks off the hook for broadcasting “fleeting expletives” years ago, but it avoided making any big decision about indecency and the First Amendment.

In a long-awaited but narrow ruling, the court unanimously agreed that the Federal Communications Commission had failed to give Fox and ABC sufficient warning before it disciplined them for briefly airing racy content. The justices, though, stopped short of tackling more far-reaching free-speech questions, leaving to another day the First Amendment implications of the FCC’s indecency policy. “It is unnecessary for the court to address the constitutionality of the current indecency policy,” Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, adding that “the court adheres to its normal practice of declining to decide cases not before it.”

All eight justices who took part in the case

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27 PLAINTIFFS IN SUIT

Kansas could face big costs in lawsuit over redistricting

BY JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

TOPEKA – The Kansas Legislature’s failure to redraw political boundaries this year could stick the state with hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal bills from parties involved in the resulting federal lawsuit, court records showed Thursday.

Attorneys for 19 of the 27 people suing Secretary of State Kris Kobach over unequal political representation submitted requests to have almost \$662,000 in attorneys’ fees and other legal expenses covered by the state.

The federal judges who imposed new congressional, legislative and State Board of Education districts earlier this month must now determine what costs Kansas must cover.

Kobach promised to fight the requests, calling them excessive. Kobach was the first defendant because his office administers elections, but Attorney General Derek Schmidt was allowed to join as a defendant to deal only with the legal expense.

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Crops arrive early for picking, eating in Kansas



Jaime Green/The Wichita Eagle

Jacob Pfannenstiel, 10, picks blackberries at Sargeant’s Berry Farm at 9836 S Hydraulic. Sargeant’s sells produce and also lets people pick their own. Owner Gaylord Sargeant said his crops came in about three weeks early this year.

Mild winter, warm spring bring fruits, veggies weeks ahead of time

BY SARAH TUCKER
The Wichita Eagle

It’s peach pickin’ time in Kansas.

At area orchards, berry farms and “you-pick” farms, most crops are coming in two weeks early.

Scott Beck at Beck’s Farms in Newton said Thursday that they have been picking peaches for two weeks now. Beck, who also grows tomatoes, apricots and cherries, said he has never seen a crop ready this early before.

“I’m not the conductor on this train,” Beck said. “I just have to run along with what happens.”

The early crops can be attributed to the mild weather in 2012.

“We had a warm spring, so



Mike Hutmacher/The Wichita Eagle

Kristy Gaeddert helps a customer at a Gaeddert Farms Sweet Corn kiosk near Kellogg and Greenwich on Thursday.

everything bloomed earlier,” Sedgwick County horticulture

agent Rebecca McMahon said. “We didn’t have a late freeze,

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Where to pick peaches and other produce in the Wichita area, 5A

luckily, and continued to have consistently warm temperatures, so everything is pretty much two to four weeks ahead of harvest.

“Fruits are perennials, so they just produce when the weather is right and when they’ve matured.”

At Sargeant’s Berry Farm in Haysville, Gaylord Sargeant grows potatoes, squash, corn, blackberries, peaches and more. Last year’s extreme hot and cold temperatures hurt his crops.

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LEVEL OF DANGER WOULD CHANGE COMPENSATION

Pentagon review calls for combat pay changes

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – A Pentagon review recommends ridding the combat pay system of inequities that have allowed officers thou-

sands of miles from battle to get better benefits proportionally than troops on the front lines in Afghanistan.

The recommendations in a Pentagon review released Thursday are likely to anger service

members. But the director of the review said they’re aimed at paying more to troops who are in the gravest danger and giving the best tax benefits to those who are paid the least.

Troops who are not near the

fight can sometimes get more in combat pay and tax benefits than those who are getting shot at on the front lines, said Thomas Bush, who directed the

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