

It's on: Mayweather says he and Pacquiao will fight May 2

By **Tim Dahlberg**
AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — “The Fight” is finally on.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. will meet Manny Pacquiao on May 2 in a welterweight showdown that will be boxing’s richest fight ever. Mayweather himself announced the bout in February after months of negotiations, posting a picture of the signed contract online.

“I promised the fans we would get this done and we did,” Mayweather said.

The long anticipated bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas will almost surely break every financial record, and make both boxers richer than ever. Mayweather could earn \$120 million or more, while Pacquiao’s split of the purse will likely be around \$80 million.

The fight, which matches boxing’s two biggest attractions of recent years, has been in the making for five years. It finally came together in recent months with both fighters putting aside past differences over various issues — including drug testing and television rights — to reach an agreement.

Pacquiao was sleeping in the Philippines when the fight was announced, but his camp issued a statement saying the fans deserve the long awaited fight.

“It is an honor to be part of this historic event,” Pacquiao said. “I dedicate this fight to all the fans who willed this fight to happen and, as always, to bring glory to the Philippines and my fellow Filipinos around the world.”

While the fight rivals the 2002 heavyweight title bout between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson for interest, it comes more than five



SHOWDOWN SCHEDULED. Manny Pacquiao attends the premiere of Manny at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles in this January 20, 2015 file photo. Floyd Mayweather Jr. will meet Pacquiao on May 2 in a welterweight showdown that will be boxing’s richest fight ever. (Photo/Todd Williamson/Invision/AP/File)

bout. The fight is expected to do record business in Nevada’s legal sports books, with tens of millions wagered on the outcome.

It will also do record business at the box office — with the MGM expected to be scaled far higher than the \$20 million live gate for Mayweather’s 2013 fight with Canelo Alvarez. The pay-per-view revenue also is expected to be a record, though television executives said they had yet to actually fix a price for people to buy the fight at home.

The fight will be televised as a joint venture between competing networks Showtime and HBO, which will share announcers with Jim Lampley and Al Bernstein reportedly handling the task at ringside.

Pacquiao began pushing hard for the fight after beating Algieri in November in Macau, and negotiations picked up in January when the two fighters met by chance at a Miami Heat basketball game and later talked with each other in Pacquiao’s hotel room about making it happen.

“It’s one of those fortuitous circumstances we couldn’t have planned,” Showtime boxing chief Stephen Espinoza said. “But we were lucky that it happened.”

As part of the agreement, Mayweather insisted on having the right to announce the bout. He also won concessions from the Pacquiao camp on who enters the ring first, what type of gloves are used, and a number of other issues, including a reported 60-40 split of the purse.

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INCREASING DIVERSITY. Student Ben Li decorates a dragon puppet for a Lunar New Year parade at the Mohegan Elementary School in Montville, Connecticut. At casinos in the state, staff can speak in nearly any Asian language. The diversity of the workforce at the casinos, which cater heavily to Asian gamblers from New York, is changing the complexion of nearby public schools that have been hiring more language specialists and adding new cultural traditions. (AP Photo/Michael Melia)

Children of Asian casino workers reshape Connecticut school

By **Michael Melia**
The Associated Press

MONTVILLE, Connecticut — At Connecticut’s casinos, the staff can speak to you in nearly any Asian language.

The diversity of the workforce at the casinos, which cater heavily to Asian gamblers from New York, is changing the complexion of nearby public schools that have been hiring more language specialists and adding new cultural traditions.

At the Mohegan Elementary School, down the road from the Mohegan Sun casino, many of the casino workers’ children were last month preparing for a Lunar New Year celebration. A dragon parade, with puppets drawn by students in the English-learners program, marched before the student body as Chinese music played over the loudspeakers.

Chinese families account for about 20 percent of the student body, according to educator Lisanne Kaplan, who sees familiar faces among dealers and other workers when she visits the casino.

“When I look around at the tables, I think, ‘Parent. *Continued on page 7*”

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