

Number of postal retail outlets facing possible closure reduced to 413

WASHINGTON—The Postal Service has narrowed the number of offices facing possible closure to 413.

Struggling with a sharp decline in mail volume caused by the recession and the movement of traditional mail to the Internet, postal officials say the agency could have a deficit as large as \$7 billion this year.

Being on the list doesn't guarantee closing, but the list of offices selected for a closer look had neared 700 at one point.

The post office has about 37,000 retail outlets across the country and Postmaster General John Potter has said he wants to keep as many open as possible.

The post office is required to place \$5 billion annually in an account to pre-fund the costs of medical care for retirees.

If it does end the fiscal year at the end of this month short of funds, postal officials have said they will default on that payment in order to make payroll and keep the agency operating. In the mean-

time, Congress is considering bills that would defer the payment.

The post office has also suggested reducing mail delivery from six to five days a week. Other money saving steps it has taken include:

Cut more than 100 million work hours, the equivalent of 57,000 positions.

Six district administrative offices have closed.

Nearly 12,000 carrier routes have been eliminated as routes were adjusted to reflect reduced volume.

There is a nationwide hiring freeze.

Staff levels at national and regional offices cut by 15 percent.

Selling unused and underutilized postal facilities.

Post Office hours have been cut.

Consolidating mail processing operations.

Halting construction of new postal facilities.

Salaries of Postal Service officers and executives are frozen. (AP)

The Hurricane makes...

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"Filipina Phenom", Hall of Fame trainer Freddie Roach's golden girl, a rising female contender with a beautiful left hook as deadly as her looks. Even Top Rank President Bob Arum flirted with the idea of signing her.

However, it might have been a case of too many expectations, too soon. The hype was everywhere for Julaton and when she couldn't live up to their expectations of her, she felt dejected.

First it was the lost, and then a serious injury occurred a few months after the fight. While training for her black belt in Bokfu martial arts, Julaton performed a kick and immediately felt a pain on her left knee. She tore a meniscus on her left knee, sidelining her for several months.

During that time off, Julaton thought long and hard about her career.

"I was heart broken after that first loss," she said. "I was disheartened with boxing. Then I tore my meniscus and the doctor found more bone fragments on my left knee, all this time I've been fighting hurt. So while I was recovering, I got to really sit down and have a little heart to heart with myself."

She realized that her boxing career is running out, maybe one or two more years. And that she wants more title shot opportunities. She came so close to her goal of becoming a world champion. She wants to prove that she's the best female fighter in the world.

After three months of recovering from the knee injury, she also made some hard decisions in her training camp.

After three years, she severed her ties with Roach.

"Freddie Roach is a fantastic trainer," she said. "He's the best pound for pound trainer in the world but it's about having that full commitment. I can't take away from Freddie's other jobs. He's training elite fighters. Who am I compared to those guys?"

"I was a little sad but realistic about it," she added. "My career is not just about him. It's about what I need to accomplish."

Taking Roach's place at her corner is Nonito Donaire Sr. Adjusting to Donaire Sr.'s style was easy, said Julaton.

"The way they like to attack are different," she said. "Freddie wanted me to use my power on the inside. Sr. likes to train me to fight outside and use my jab a little bit more. I just feel honored to be able to train with not only Freddie but now having the chance to train with Sr."

Championship

Julaton was supposed to fight last month in the undercard of the Timothy Bradley vs. Nate Campbell match up. However, Julaton's match fell through.

When the opportunity to fight Jeffries and for a title appeared, the Hurricane went for it.

Jeffries is a tough match. She's nicknamed the "Road Warrior" for a reason. She has more than 50 professional fights under her belt and willing to fight anyone, anywhere.

Expect this match to be a slugfest.

With Julaton looking to become a champion, she's going to give it her best.

After a stellar amateur career and a six fight professional career where she's 4-1-1, Julaton is aiming to prove that she belongs in the top female pound-4-pound boxing rankings.

On September 12, she'll have to prove it. (Joseph Pimentel)

Malacañang keeps distance...

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congressman of Pampanga, should address the issue.

"For one thing, it's a personal matter for the congressman. He explained himself before media but other than that all I can say is we will leave it to the lower house," Ermita said.

He declined to comment on the statements made by Arroyo about his assets and the accumulation of wealth that took place from 2002 to 2008.

"I wouldn't wish to make my own impressions about that so just leave it at that. I think it's not proper for me to make a comment on that particular matter," Ermita said.

Ermita said the Palace is not too concerned about the public perception of the Office of the

President brought about by the presidential son's wealth.

He said that as long as Rep. Arroyo is confident that he can explain the issues and that everything is aboveboard, then everybody should "just take his information as that."

"If people think otherwise then they have their recourse, but I'd rather not give details on impressions," Ermita said.

Based on the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth of Arroyo, his net worth went up from P5 million in 2002 to P99 million in 2008.

He admitted that campaign donations and wedding gifts enabled him to acquire a \$1.32-million (P63.7 million) waterfront house in California. ■

Roach blasts Pacquiao advisor, threatens to quit

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress

LOS ANGELES—With less than three months before the biggest fight of the year, Manny Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach is wondering why his star pupil has yet to report to training camp.

And better yet, why Pacquiao or his management team has not decided where training camp will be held.

Pacquiao is unable to train in the US due to tax reasons, leaving Roach and his coaching staff and sparring partners in limbo.

"Every time, I call Manny's number, Mike Koncz (Pacquiao's advisor) answers the phone and I tell Mike 'where are we training?' [Koncz] said, 'I haven't asked Manny yet.' I said, 'well, don't you think you should ask him? Let's get something straight

here so we know which direction we're going.'"

"I'm a little pissed off to be honest with you [about] the lack of communication," said Roach to the *Asian Journal*.

Pacquiao is shooting a movie in Manila, but Roach believes the pound-for-pound king needs to be in the gym to prepare for "the toughest bout in his career."

"People tell me he's too slow," said Roach. "He beat Shane Mosley, one of the fastest guys in the world. He knows how to nullify speed."

Cotto is already three weeks into his training camp. And despite suffering some setbacks with a loss against Antonio Margarito and a decision win against Joshu Clottey, Cotto is motivated that a win against Pacquiao will get him back to the top of the

pound-4-pound ranking.

"He knows a win over Manny Pacquiao erases all the bad things that's happened in his past. So anyone who thinks this is an easy fight is a fool. This guy is going to give it all he has," said Roach.

It's been three weeks since Roach has spoken to Pacquiao and now, dealing with the untimely death of his younger brother, Joey, Roach's frustration boiled over.

Roach blames Pacquiao's advisor Koncz for the lack of communication and comments he made in the media referring to Freddie as "just a trainer."

"I know I'm a realist I know boxing," said Roach. "Mike Koncz made a comment that we don't need to talk to Freddie he's only the trainer. Well, Mike Koncz, I'm the only one in the camp

that knows boxing and knows the sport...I've been studying this guy (Cotto), watching his fights, I have a good strategy in mind and we just have to implement it now."

"Well, maybe Mike Koncz can come up with the strategy," Roach added. "I don't know. You know, I'm so pissed off with that guy you know if they don't want me to be the trainer anymore that's fine with me do it yourself."

Koncz told ABS-CBN Philippines that Pacquiao is on schedule. The pound-for-pound king will be training in Baguio after the kick off press conference at Yankee Stadium in New York, according to Koncz.

Koncz also told ABS-CBN that he and Roach would handle the friction between them "internally." ■

Asian-Americans want in...

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for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "APALC calls on API communities to contact their members of Congress and ask them to include our communities in any health reform legislation."

There are about 2.2 million Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders who lack health care insurance coverage. Nearly 12 percent of AAPI children are deficient in health coverage, according to asianamericansforbama.com.

With no Asian-American in the Senate and only a total of eight in the House of Representatives,

leaders are concerned that the voice of Asian-American communities is not being heard, especially when it comes to health care legislation.

"Given the Asian and Pacific Islander community's ethnic and socio-economic diversity, understanding the unique needs of each community is essential to developing a health reform that will meet those needs," said California Assemblymember Mike Eng.

According to the APALC, cancer is the leading cause of death for Asian-Americans. Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders face

high rates of chronic disease such as diabetes and heart disease.

In addition, much of our community continues to lack health coverage, with Korean-Americans facing some of the largest numbers of uninsured.

Obama on AA Healthcare
Obama has already stated on his website that his new national health plan would help uninsured AAPI's.

He said that his health plan would give Americans the choice to buy affordable health coverage similar to the plans available to federal employees. His plan would also feature guaranteed eligibility.

"No American will be turned

away from any insurance plan because of illness or pre-existing conditions," he said.

Obama added that his health care reform legislation would reduce cost for AAPI's, saving a typical family up to \$2,500 every year on medical expenses.

Obama also acknowledged the disparities between AAPI's and white Americans.

He cites an example that Asian women are less likely to be screened for cervical and breast cancer than white and African-American women.

Obama would like to change that by promoting prevention and increasing the cultural competence of health care workers. (Joseph Pimentel)

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