

Amazon HQ2 could be huge boost to city that lands it

BY **JAMES CLARK**
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The projections for Amazon's second headquarters called HQ2 are staggering.

The proposed facility will be a \$5 billion capital investment, according to Amazon, and create 50,000 new tech-oriented jobs.

Nashville has made the short list of 20 cities announced Thursday as finalists for HQ2. That's trimmed from 238 cities which began the process.

It will be transformative for whichever city lands Amazon's new facility. Based on the impact of its headquarters in Seattle from 2010 and 2016, Amazon says HQ2 will add \$38 billion to the local economy, create 53,000 non-Amazon jobs, and increase the income of non-Amazon employees by \$17 billion.

Impressive. So what are Nashville's chances of emerging as the winner and landing HQ2?

Probably not good.

Atlanta has been billed as one of the early frontrunners, which could still have somewhat of a residual effect for Middle Tennessee. Atlanta looks promising because the city has offered more than \$1 billion in financial incentives and has a 120-acre downtown, construction-ready site called The Gulch.

Other frontrunners include America's big boys, the populous cities of Boston, Chicago, Dallas and New York.

Boston has the educated workforce Amazon craves with Harvard and MIT. Chicago has reportedly offered \$2 billion in incentives to help take the bite off its frigid winters.

New York City touts itself as a place where 2.3 million residents have at least a bachelor's degree. But Amazon would hardly stand out as a shining light in this city filled with Fortune 500 companies.

Key selling points listed for Nashville are the city's

booming economy and its emergence as a top-shelf tourism destination, complete with legendary music scene. Tennessee also prides itself on not having a personal income tax and has shown it has the resources to be a major automotive hub.

One drawback is Nashville's inadequate public transportation system. Mass transit is one of the criteria Amazon founder Jeff Bezos stressed as extremely important when looking for cities to locate HQ2.

Cities listed among the 20 finalists that don't appear likely to land HQ2 include Toronto, Pittsburgh, Raleigh, N.C., and Newark, N.J.

Other top 20 finalists are Austin, Texas; Columbus, Ohio; Denver, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, Montgomery County, Md., Northern Virginia, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

Amazon has said it will announce the winning site this year.

Dedicated student



Jacob Dodd photo

On Friday, Warren County Schools were closed for inclement weather. Tysen Devlin visited Magness Library to find new books to take home to read. Students are urged to read at least 20 minutes a day. Devlin attends Hickory Creek Elementary. After missing all last week due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and bad weather, students are expected to return to school Monday, Jan. 22.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY, JAN. 22

specific dates and times call 473-8484.

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of McMinnville Housing Authority will be held at the Rebel Hill Community Room. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

The Relay for Life team kick off meeting will be held at Caney Fork Electric auditorium at 5:30 p.m. Discussion will be held about plans to move Relay for Life downtown.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23

The arthritis exercise program will be offered by the UT-TSU Extension office on most Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m., beginning Jan. 23.

There will be 16 sessions, with seated and standing exercises offered. For

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All parent-teacher conferences with the Warren County School System have been postponed until February. Exact dates will be announced later.

Magness Library will hold a book sale Jan. 8-27 with a variety of books being offered.

Hospice is looking for caring volunteers. Contact Gail Evans at 1-888-537-3430 to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

McMinnville Alanon meets Tuesday and Thursday nights at St. Catherine's Catholic Church on Faulkner Springs Road.

TRAFFIC COURT

BY **DUANE SHERRILL**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Sentences were handed down Thursday by Judge Bill Locke in General Sessions Traffic Court.

Included in court action: Robert Andrew Lyle was ordered to serve 90 days of an 11-month, 29-day sentence and pay \$50 plus costs for theft and driving on a suspended license.

Anthony Robert Breneman was ordered to serve 15 days of a six-month sentence and pay \$50 plus costs and perform 24 hours public service work for criminal impersonation and driving on a revoked license.

Terry Ray Barnes was

bound to the grand jury on charges of theft over \$10,000, resisting arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia, reckless endangerment, and driving on a suspended license.

Eliezer Rostran was instructed to serve 10 days of an 11-29 sentence and must pay \$150 plus costs and undergo batterer intervention for domestic assault.

Kasey Estes was bound to the grand jury on charges of DUI, simple possession of drugs, and introduction of contraband into a penal facility.

Lucas Cole Campbell was directed to serve 10 days of an 11-29 sentence, pay \$50 plus costs and perform 24 hours public service work for driving on a revoked

license. Brianna L. Wolf was bound to the grand jury on the charge of theft over \$10,000.

Tauna McDonald was instructed to serve 48 hours of a six-month sentence, pay \$50 plus costs and perform 24 hours public service work for driving on a revoked license.

Jaquantez Shermont Pearson was given a six-month probationary sentence and must pay \$50 plus costs for driving on a revoked license.

Joshua Heath Phillips was bound to the grand jury on the charge of driving on a suspended license.

Tristan Brock was instructed to serve 48 hours of a six-month sentence and pay \$50 plus costs for driving on a suspended license. He was given an extra five days for failure to appear in court.

Robert Micah Moffitt was ordered to serve 48 hours of an 11-29 sentence, pay \$350 plus costs, perform 24 hours public service work, attend DUI Class, and lose driving privileges for one year for DUI.

Andrew Michael King was bound to the grand jury on the charge of possession of meth.

Andrew King was bound to the grand jury on charges of evading arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving on a revoked license. He was also given 10 days for failure to appear in court.

Amy Prater was granted an 11-29 judicial diversion and must pay \$150 plus costs for possession of drug paraphernalia. The diversion means she can have her record erased once her probation is over.

Darrell Stembidge was given a six-month probationary sentence and must make restitution for leaving the scene of an accident.

Kimberly Page Gossett was fined \$10 plus costs for leaving the scene of an accident with property damage.

Edwin Cardenas Rodriguez must pay \$10 plus costs for leaving the scene of an accident with property damage.

Gabriel Rodriguez Becerra, Jamie Conley and Olga Ramirez-Villegas must pay \$10 plus costs for driving without a license.

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