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ALERT **TOP STORY**

5 things to know about the Hammond bank tower converted into apartments

Joseph S. Pete

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Indiana Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith speaks at the grand opening of The Banc and the Reserve in Hammond.
John J. Watkins, The Times



Joseph S. Pete

- After 3 1/2 years and \$30 million in investment, developers have revived the century-old Bank Calumet tower in a major step toward the revitalization of downtown Hammond. More than four-fifths of the Banc has already been rented out.
 - NWI Hohman LLC, a partnership among NWI Development Group, ASA Real Estate Development and ResElevate, transformed the nine-story bank tower at 5231 Hohman Ave. into 100 market-rate apartments, the Brew Box coffee shop that's slated to open soon and The Reserve: A Grand Venue wedding and special events space. The tower had sat empty for years after First Midwest Bank left in 2015.
 - First National Bank built the 112-foot-tall building, the tallest in Hammond, in 1925. It was later occupied by First Trust and Savings Bank, the Hammond National Bank and Trust Co., law offices and then Bank Calumet, which was one of the Region's largest homegrown banks until it was acquired by Chicago-based First Midwest Bank in 2006.
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- Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority President and CEO Sherri Ziller said more developments should crop up along the double-track project that is speeding up services between Michigan City and Chicago. It's expected that it will draw 11,000 more residents to live in Northwest Indiana, she said.
- The Banc is also in tandem with a revitalization plan the renowned urban planner Jeff Speck developed to bring life and activity back to what was once one of Northwest Indiana's biggest hubs for shopping and entertainment but has fallen on

hard times in recent years. At Speck's suggestion, Hammond redid the infrastructure to make downtown more pedestrian-friendly, including by shrinking Hohman Avenue to two lanes, widening the sidewalks, adding parking in the middle of the street and putting in flower boxes and other aesthetic enhancements.

The Banc and Reserve grand opening

 After 3 ½ years, century-old Bank Calumet tower in Hammond revived, filling up

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