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## **Skyline Report Shows Positive Signs**

Posted on April 2, 2012 by Christie Swanson in Business No Comments

day released fourth quarter multifamily and commercial real estate re west Arkansas through the Skyline Report.

Montharmy vacancy rates dropped for the third straight report, down to 6.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2011. The market hit a high of 16.1 percent in the 2010 second quarter.

Bentonville had the lowest vacancy rate in the fourth quarter at 3.8 percent while Springdale had the highest at 10 percent.

Of the two-county's five largest cities, only Siloam Springs reported an increase in multifamily vacancy rates, increasing to 8 percent from 7.4 percent in the 2011 second quarter.

"A decline in multifamily vacancy rates of this size is certainly good news for developers and a good sign of the region's economic resilience. However, we want to caution builders against interpreting this as a signal to begin building without restraint," Kathy Deck, lead research for the Skyline Report at the Center for Business and Economic Research at the Sam M. Walton College of Business, stated in a news release. "Already there have been thousands of new units with anticipated completions in the next couple of years."

The area's commercial real estate market mostly showed improvement in the second half of 2010. Two submarkets reported increases in vacancy rates: medical/office submarket up to 15.7 percent from 14 percent and office/warehouse up to 21.3 percent from 17.8 percent.

Little space has been added to the market, allowing a net of 195,062 square feet be absorbed. Only 20,305 square feet were added to the commercial market in the second half of 2011, all in the office submarket.

More than 6.02 million square feet of commercial space remains available in Benton and Washington counties in the second half of 2011. There were more than 4.52 million square feet of commercial space available at the end of the second quarter of 2007.

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#### **About Christie Swanson**

Christie Swanson covers business for NWA Media's local daily newspapers and NWAonline.com. In her nearly 20-year career, she's covered everything from local sports to international retailing giant Wal-Mart. Christie also spent six years as managing editor of the Northwest Arkansas Times in Fayetteville. She is a graduate of the University of South Dakota and a loyal fan of her home state lowa Hawkeyes.

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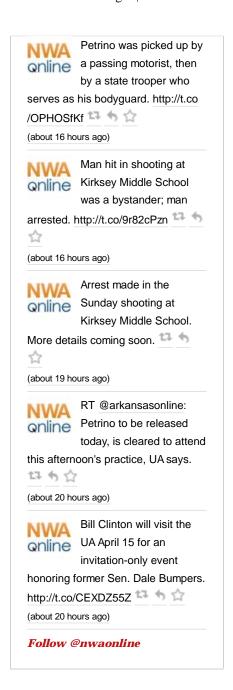
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