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Politics & Coffee: Steelman In Dexter

OCTOBER 26TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

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*By Annabeth Miller,
SMT Editor*

It was an early morning of politics and coffee as the race for the U.S. Senate came to Dexter Wednesday.

Republican Sarah Steelman brought her Senate campaign to town for an early morning meeting with supporters. The meeting room at the Airport Café was packed for the breakfast political gathering.

Steeleman used the opportunity to speak casually to the group on a range of issues –from the economy, federal regulations and trade.

Steeleman said one stranglehold over the economy has become the hold federal agencies have over business in the county. She relayed a story of a small business near Marshfield and regulators came into the business with the purpose of finding two violations.

The inspectors. Steelman said, told the business owner that they had been instructed to find two violations.

“Those violations will cost that business owner \$10,000 a piece,” Steelman said. “Most people are operating on a very slim margin today, and you have two violations that are \$10,000 a piece – that’s enough to put you under. This is ridiculous and scary attitude for

government to have towards people who are creating jobs and economic activity in this country.”

Steelman of Rolla, was elected Missouri State Treasurer in 2004 and was elected to the State Senate from the 16th senator district in Mid-Missouri. She is seeking the Republican nomination to challenge Claire McCaskill in the November 2012 election. She faces two opponents in the August 2012 primary – U.S. Congressman Todd Akin and St. Louis businessman John Brunner.

Earlier this month Steelman challenged Akin and Brunner to a “series of old-fashioned debates.”

“I haven’t heard a word from them,” she said of Akin and Brunner on the debate challenge. She said while she has not heard a word from Brunner, Steelman and Akin were scheduled to both appear on a radio show in the Kansas City area. But the radio station cancelled the program due to lack of response from Brunner.

“I think people are hungry and thirsty for a debate about the issues,” Steelman said, “just a good, healthy discussion about solutions and what people think, that engages the public. It’s good for us to do that; it’s good for the voters. And that’s all that I’m after.”

LAST UPDATED ON OCTOBER 26TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

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