

Local Dems hold Super Tuesday event

By Josh Mitchell

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Several dozen Sheridan County Democrats gathered last evening to root for either Illinois Sen. Barack Obama or New York Sen. Hillary Clinton as the Super Tuesday primary election results rolled in.

The event, which featured a large projector screen for viewing, took place at Sheridan College's Main Street campus.

Lisa Carroll-Reece of Sheridan was wearing an Obama shirt that stated "Hope Over Fear."

"I think he represents the change the country is in need of," said Carroll-Reece.

Clinton votes the same way as Republican John McCain on many issues, Carroll-Reece said, adding that Clinton takes "big money" from corporations and political action committees.

She also said she thinks Obama is more capable of working with

Republicans than Clinton.

Obama does not lack experience, as is often said, she asserted.

She added that nobody is more experienced in political office than Dick Cheney and that she would not want him as president.

She said Obama has as much experience as John F. Kennedy did before his election as president.

Asked how she assesses the chances of a black man being elected president, she said, "I hope we're over that. I believe we will have the first black president."

Sheridan County Democrat Larry Mueller said he favors Clinton over Obama: "She is truly an American for America," Mueller said.

Mueller said if Clinton gets the nomination, he hopes she picks John Edwards or Obama as her running mate. Edwards, a former North Carolina senator, recently dropped out of the presidential race.

Please see **Dems, Page 2**



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Sheridan County Democratic Party Chair Carol LeResche, left, and party member Nancy Drummond display a key chain that counts down the number of days President Bush has left in office. The women were attending the Sheridan County Democratic Party Super Tuesday gathering at Sheridan College Main Street.

Dems

(Continued from Page 1)

Mueller said he likes Clinton better than Obama because he thinks she would be a better leader with her experience.

Mueller added there is a good chance the nation will elect a Democrat, because McCain "wants to be another Bush."

"I think we've had enough of that kind of leadership," Mueller said.

However, he predicted Wyoming will still favor the Republican candidate, saying Republicans outnumber Democrats here 2-to-1.

Mueller said if a Republican were going to win, he would prefer former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, since he is more "level-headed" than the other Republican candidates.

A woman, who refused to identify herself, said it would be better if former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney got the Republican nomination over McCain, because independents will vote Democratic before they vote for Romney.

Sheridan County Democratic Party Chairwoman Carol LeResche said she hasn't decided between Obama and Clinton.

LeResche said she likes how Obama has gotten youths involved in politics, and she likes Clinton for her universal health care plan.

McCain is "quite militaristic," LeResche stated.

LeResche and Sheridan resident Nancy Drummond, who is a superdelegate to the Democratic National Convention in Denver in August, both said the United States should never have gone to war in Iraq and needs to get out.

They said they disagree with McCain that the nation could be there another 100 years.

Drummond said she supports bringing the troops home within a year from when the new president takes office.

Asked what would happen in Iraq if the troops left, Drummond said the Iraqis would "take care of themselves."

In terms of the war, the nation

has spent billions of dollars, young people have died, parents are "devastated," and there is "no end in sight," LeResche said.

Drummond said the soldiers returning from Iraq could receive better health care. She said when the soldiers return, they "kind of get sloughed off."

Drummond also said the nation's economy is suffering under Bush in that the middle class has "lost ground" because of inflation.

LeResche said the United States needs to wean itself off foreign oil to make the country safer.

The Bush administration has caused a "perversion" of the U.S. Constitution with a pre-emptive war and telephone wiretapping, LeResche said.