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Dr. Ricardo Valle

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## Chief names honor students

Butte Tribe Chief Rodger Colluma announces the 2023 college and high school graduations of Butte tribe members.

This year's Butte Tribal Member Bethany Banes graduates from Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) on May 19, 2023. Bethany ends her studies at CLTCC as one of the dual-Valedictorian of the 2023 Practical Nursing class.

In true Butte Tribe fashion, Bethany worked diligently with dedication on her journey of becoming a Practical Nurse. She has proudly served as Vice President of the Student Government Association on her campus. Bethany is on track to be on the Dean's List for the fifth consecutive semester. The academic accomplishment of maintaining a 4.0

GPA earned her the invitation to the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. She is pleased to be a member of both honor societies.

On April 19, 2023, Bethany was recognized as part of the 2023 All-Louisiana Academic Team. She was selected for this award through her affiliation with Phi Theta Kappa and Student Government Association. This award was given in recognition of her academic achievements and leadership accomplishments. Bethany is also a proud National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses Student Honor Society member. Bethany is looking forward to beginning her nursing profession in the coming



Banes

weeks. When asked what has been the driving force behind her academic success, Banes said it was the love of her family.

Other 2023 Butte Tribe Honor Graduates are David Trichell, Dale Spanier, Jeremy Driver, Summer Gorham, Julie Trichell, Emery Ramirez.

## Senator gives update on legislative session

The legislative session is in its sixth week, and senator Bernard gave an overview of what has happened so far. Here is what he had to say in its entirety.

"By adjournment Thursday, May 11, the legislature had approved 656 legislative instruments from their house of origin; 412 in the House and 244 in the Senate. Two hundred thirty-nine resolutions have been passed and adopted. The issues we have discussed and continue to debate, include abortion, unemployment compensation, carbon capture, insurance claims, nursing homes, parole, tax exemptions, marijuana, gender identity, TOPS, regulations on commercial businesses, and many more.

One of the "front and center" issues is whether or not to extend the expenditure limit. This "ceiling" was enacted during the time Senate President Randy Ewing was in the legislature. It did not contemplate a situation where unprecedented federal dollars (one-time monies) were available to spend, not

1990's, is extended, the one-time federal dollars could be used to address a backlog of projects that keep getting kicked down the road. The opportunity to check off these needs that have been long ignored, would be able to be addressed. Paying down the IUAL is probably a compromise that will be reached by both House and Senate. It should be pointed out however, that the pension systems began a systematic strategy several years ago to pay off their unfunded liability by the year 2029. So, a plan to pay "down" the UAL, while helpful, will not erase the remaining UAL.

I have always supported teacher pay raises. My overriding concern as I leave the Senate in December, is how we can attract more students to our colleges of education. Every teacher I have ever talked to says the same thing . . . "Just let me teach my kids!" The tsunami of tests, paperwork, and other requirements that are put upon our teachers diminishes the enthusiasm they have about urging others to enter