

Letter: Elk Valley Casino photo: ‘Shabby treatment’

June 13, 2022



Editor Schmidt:

I'll come straight to the point. First, I am a member of the Elk Valley Rancheria and very proud! Also very proud of the gorgeous Casino Grand Opening.

Of course, all of Del Norte County and surroundings who could not be there sure weren't able to even get a slight glimpse of the casino by the way it was buried on some back page of some grass and a few elk, of which we are proud of and love.

Why was Elk Valley treated in such a shabby way?

Joan Warner

Crescent City

Editor Schmidt's response:

The new Elk Valley Casino deserved better, and I promise to do better next time.

At that time, the casino was in the final stages of getting ready for its grand opening. Trucks and work vehicles were parked close to the building, pointed in all directions, with tools and equipment scattered about. Work crews were dashing back and forth attending to all manner of tasks. One worker – the boss – didn't want his picture taken.

As I approached the inside of the casino, other workers were very busy making final preparations for the grand opening. I chose not to enter uninvited or otherwise disturb the workers. I concluded that the sovereign Elk Valley Nation would not appreciate such photos being taken and published in the Triplicate.

As I drove away I saw some elk grazing near the entrance road below the casino. I asked Big Elk if it would be okay to take their picture. He said, "It's okay, but don't get too close, as my herd is grazing." I nodded and backed away slowly.

I could tell when I snapped the picture with my tiny lens that it would be a poor quality photo. I had no intention to publish it. I nevertheless sent it along with other photos of other subjects to fill an empty spot in the newspaper, if needed. I was horrified to see that this crummy elk picture got published. You might notice my other photos of similar quality from time to time.

I have since learned that the Elk Valley Nation has several outstanding photographers among its People. I need their help. And the Triplicate would be honored to publish their work.