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Family of Toh-Atin Gallery sells rail car that used to house FLC students

DURANGO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

District sues truck makers

DFPD is first Colorado agency to seek recourse

BY CHRISTIAN BURNEY
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Durango Fire Protection District has filed a class-action antitrust lawsuit against three major U.S. fire truck manufacturers alleging they overcharged fire departments nationwide through price-fixing.

The 56-count complaint alleges "a conspiracy to unlawfully raise prices and restrict supply," the fire district said in a news release announcing the lawsuit Thursday.

The lawsuit names REV Group, Rosenbauer America and Oshkosh Corp. and its subsidiary, Pierce Manufacturing.

They are the largest fire truck manufacturers in the nation, together representing 70% to 80% of the market share, Chris Cowan, an attorney representing the fire district, said in the release. He said their market capture is the result of a decade of private equity consolidation.

The lawsuit also names the trade association Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association.

FAMA allegedly enabled the manufacturers to "exchange competitively sensitive, non-public information and monitor

See **DISTRICT, 12A**



JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald photos

ABOVE: A tow truck carries the 0501 caboose from the late Jackson Clark Sr.'s property just below the Front Hill of Fort Lewis College on March 27, taking it down East Eighth Avenue through Durango to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad yard for restoration. BELOW: The caboose is unloaded onto the tracks.

Back on TRACK

BY SCOUT EDMONDSON
HERALD STAFF WRITER

Classic steam engines — like the ones that grace the rails of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad — are an iconic image of the history of the American West. But there is an unsung hero on every steam train:

the little red caboose.

The caboose is as iconic as the engine pulling a train, but because it takes up the rear, the intrepid car can sometimes be overlooked. But not for one multigenerational Durango family.

In 1953, Jackson Clark Sr., descendant of an immigrant

See **CABOOSE, 12A**



"It was great place to live. You could sit on top of the caboose and drink beer and watch the world go by."

ANTONIA CLARK
FAMILY OWNED 0501 CABOOSE

Around THE CORNERS

'Vince the Sign Guy' brings a touch of levity to Vallecito

'If (my) purpose is putting a smile on somebody's face, then that's what I'm going to keep doing'

BY ELIZABETH POND
HERALD STAFF WRITER

La Plata County resident Vince Rozmiarek, 63, believes his purpose lies in making people laugh. His avenue to fulfilling that purpose? Displaying daily puns on a homemade sign near Vallecito.

The sign, which measures 7 feet by 4 feet, can be found on County Road 501 about 3 miles south of Vallecito Reservoir.

Some of Rozmiarek's recent puns in-

clude: "The bee got married because it found its honey," "People are shocked I have a police record, but I just like their music," and "The Frenchman mauled by a lion was Claude."

"I just love to make people smile," he said. "Everybody's always grinding their teeth about the news. I try to do something — maybe it's a 30-second distraction. They get halfway up the road, and I give them a smile. Well, that's worth it. Mission accomplished."

See **SIGN GUY, 12A**



Vince Rozmiarek, aka "Vince the Sign Guy," stands next to his sign close to his house on County Road 501 on April 7, near Vallecito Reservoir. He has been displaying daily puns since 2015 and at Vallecito since 2022.

JERRY MCBRIDE/Durango Herald

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