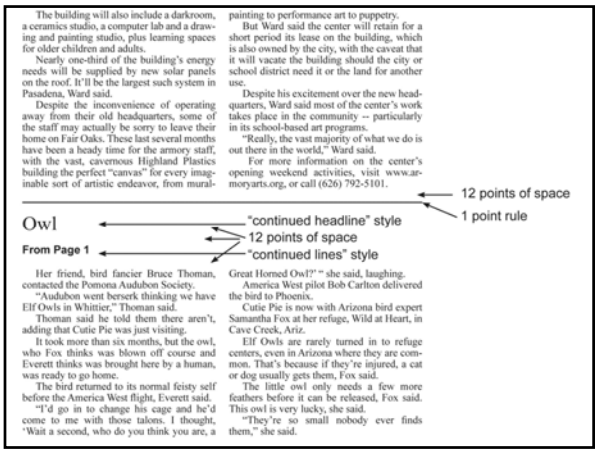


The building will also include a darkroom, a ceramics studio, a computer lab and a drawing and painting studio, plus learning spaces for older children and adults.

Nearly one-third of the building's energy needs will be supplied by new solar panels on the roof. It'll be the largest such system in Pasadena, Ward said.

Despite the inconvenience of operating away from their old headquarters, some of the staff may actually be sorry to leave their home on Fair Oaks. These last several months have been a heady time for the armory staff, with the vast, cavernous Highland Plastics building the perfect "canvas" for every imaginable sort of artistic endeavor, from mural-painting to performance art to puppetry.

But Ward said the center will retain for a short period its lease on the building, which is also owned by the city, with the caveat that it will vacate the building should the city or school district need it or the land for another use.

Despite his excitement over the new headquarters, Ward said most of the center's work takes place in the community -- particularly in its school-based art programs.

"Really, the vast majority of what we do is out there in the world," Ward said.

For more information on the center's opening weekend activities, visit www.armoryarts.org, or call (626) 792-5101.

Owl

From Page 1

Her friend, bird fancier Bruce Thoman, contacted the Pomona Audubon Society.

"Audubon went berserk thinking we have Elf Owls in Whittier," Thoman said.

Thoman said he told them there aren't, adding that Cutie Pie was just visiting.

It took more than six months, but the owl, who Fox thinks was blown off course and Everett thinks was brought here by a human, was ready to go home.

The bird returned to its normal feisty self before the America West flight, Everett said.

"I'd go in to change his cage and he'd come to me with those talons. I thought, 'Wait a second, who do you think you are, a Great Horned Owl?' " she said, laughing.

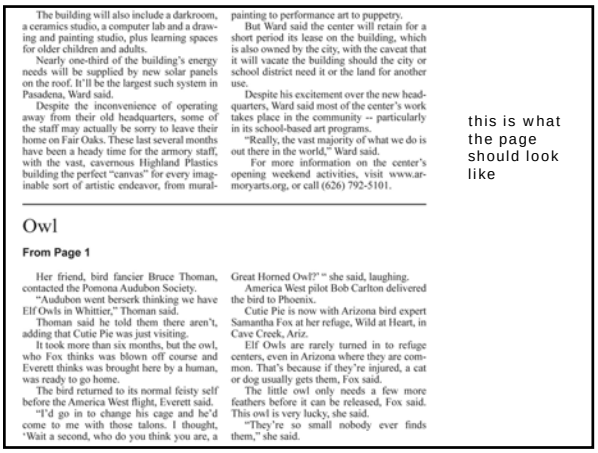
America West pilot Bob Carlton delivered the bird to Phoenix.

Cutie Pie is now with Arizona bird expert Samantha Fox at her refuge, Wild at Heart, in Cave Creek, Ariz.

Elf Owls are rarely turned in to refuge centers, even in Arizona where they are common. That's because if they're injured, a cat or dog usually gets them, Fox said.

The little owl only needs a few more feathers before it can be released, Fox said. This owl is very lucky, she said.

"They're so small nobody ever finds them," she said.



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