Poured into three columns

A flow too long for one column is set column by column. Each column takes as many of the broken lines as its height allows, draws them, and hands the rest to the column beside it, which takes up exactly where the last one stopped. The words

9 lines: the column is full.
240 characters, widest line 142 pt

are broken once, to the width one column has, so every column is set to the same measure.

4 lines: a column break.
91 characters, widest line 131 pt

A column break written in the text ends the second column early, and this paragraph opens the third. This is what sets a newspaper's text, a report's two columns, or the narrow measure a wide page reads best in.

9 lines: the text ends here.
211 characters, widest line 140 pt

This flow lets a column take seven lines at most, and keeps at least three lines of a paragraph on either side of a cut. A column may therefore stop short of its foot: at its limit of lines, or

7 lines: its limit of lines.
193 characters, widest line 140 pt

where a cut would strand fewer than three lines of a paragraph, which then waits for the next column whole. The caption under each column says which it was.

6 lines: lines held back.
158 characters, widest line 143 pt
It had room for 7 lines.

A marker planted in the text draws nothing and takes no room; it says which column and which line the word after it went into, as the line under the columns reports.

6 lines: the text ends here.
166 characters, widest line 142 pt

The marker: column 3, line 1.