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To get to the University of Arizona, Joe Coughlin hops a bus to Los Angeles, then takes a 9½-hour Amtrak ride to Tucson.

MAMTA POPAT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Twice a week, student makes 12-hour trip to Chomsky class

By Kristen Cook
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Joe Coughlin is a front-row kind of guy.

In fact, that's one of his big rules when it comes to school.

"Studies show there's a one-letter grade difference between the front and back," he says. "In front, there are no distractions. You're right in front of the teacher."

He's also always the first to queue up for POL 150C2: "What is Politics?" (Yes, there's a line to get into class.) This is even more impressive when you know about Coughlin's complicated commute to take the University of Arizona's general education course: He hops a bus and then rides a train from ... Bakersfield,

California.

That's 2½ hours on the bus, 9½ hours on Amtrak's Sunset Limited. Total travel time: 12 hours.

Twice a week. "It's kind of an adventure to me," says Coughlin, 63, the married father of three who owns Coconut Joe's, a beach-themed restaurant that's been a Bakersfield landmark for nearly 30 years. It's the kind of place where servers have the regulars' orders into the kitchen as soon as they walk in the door.

Coughlin knew he had to take the course after his son — a recent UA Eller College of Management grad — told him

See COMMUTER, A6

IF YOU GO

The class taught by Noam Chomsky and Marv Waterstone is both a general education course for University of Arizona undergraduates and a Humanities Seminars class for adult community members. This is the first intergenerational course of this type to be given at the UA, and one goal was to connect students from multiple generations and political outlooks to stimulate ideas and dialogue.

Up next:

The UA Humanities Seminars Program will offer

monthlong courses in May, June, July, August, given by UA professors.

See the website hsp.arizona.edu for class descriptions including "Meet the Professor" videos and registration information. The program will have a booth at the Tucson Festival of Books. Registration begins March 13. Class topics range widely: history, literature, archaeology, music, classics, science and more.

The cost of the courses ranges from \$85 to \$150 depending on the number of class sessions.

President ratchets up battle with news media

By Nancy Benac and Mary Clare Jalonick

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Trump unloaded on the news media Friday for using anonymous sources — just hours after members of his own staff insisted on briefing reporters only on condition their names be concealed.

Unleashing a line of attack that energized an enthusiastic crowd at the nation's largest gathering of conservative activists, Trump said unethical reporters "make up stories and make up sources."

"They shouldn't be allowed to use sources unless they use somebody's name," he declared. "Let their name be put out there."

Trump told the Conservative Political Action Conference that while not all reporters are bad, the "fake news" crowd "doesn't represent the people. It will never represent the people and we're going to do something about it."

Trump didn't expand on what he had in mind or which news organizations he was talking about. But his broadsides represented an escalation of his running battle against the press, which he has taken to

See TRUMP, A6



White House stands behind chief of staff in his dealings with FBI director / Page A13



The AP fact-checks claims made by the president on Friday / Page A14



Democrats invite immigrants to Trump's first address to Congress / Page A13



Mexico: "No chance" we would take U.S. deportees from third countries / Page A13

Electronic glasses help the legally blind see

By Michael Liedtke
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Jeff Regan was born with underdeveloped optic nerves and had spent most of his life in a blur. Then four years ago, he donned an unwieldy headset made by a Toronto company called eSight.

Suddenly, Regan could read a newspaper while eating breakfast and make out the faces of his co-workers from across the room. He's been able to attend plays

and watch what's happening on stage without having to guess why people around him were laughing.

"These glasses have made my life so much better," said Regan, 48, a Canadian engineer who lives in London, Ontario.

The headsets from eSight transmit images from a forward-facing camera to small internal screens — one for each eye — in a way that

See GLASSES, A6



ERIC RISBERG / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Canadian-made headset beams images from a forward-facing camera into the wearer's peripheral vision.

1920 incubator baby who spent months in sideshow dies at 96

By Frank Eitman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINEOLA, N.Y. — Lucille Conlin Horn weighed barely 2 pounds when she was born, a perilous size for any infant, especially in 1920. Doctors told her parents to hold off on a funeral for her twin sister who had died at birth, expecting she too would soon be gone.

But her life spanned nearly a century after her parents put their faith in a sideshow doctor at

Coney Island who put babies on display in incubators to fund his research to keep them alive.

The Brooklyn-born woman, who later moved to Long Island, died Feb. 11 at age 96, according to the Hungerford & Clark Funeral Home. She had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Horn was among thousands of premature babies who were

See INCUBATOR, A6

COMING SUNDAY

TUCSON INK: Meet a man who creates tattoos and his wife, who removes them.



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GLASSES

Continued from Page A1

beams the video into the wearer's peripheral vision. That turns out to be all that some people with limited vision, even legal blindness, need to see things they never could before. That's because many visual impairments degrade central vision while leaving peripheral vision largely intact.

Although eSight's glasses won't help people with total blindness, they could be a huge deal for the millions of peoples whose vision is so impaired that it can't be corrected with ordinary lenses.

COST-PROHIBITIVE

But eSight still needs to clear a few minor hurdles.

Among them: proving the glasses are safe and effective for the legally blind. While eSight's headsets don't require the approval of health regulators — they fall into the same low-risk category as dental floss — there's not yet firm evidence of their benefits. The company is funding clinical trials to provide that proof.

The headsets also carry an eye-popping price tag. The latest version of the glasses, released just last week, sells for about \$10,000. While that's \$5,000 less than its predecessor, it's still a lot for people who often have trouble getting high-paying jobs because they can't see. Insurers won't cover the cost; they

consider the glasses an "assistive" technology similar to hearing aids.

eSight CEO Brian Mech said the latest improvements might help insurers overcome their short-sighted view of his product. Mech argues that it would be more cost-effective for insurers to pay for the headsets, even in part, than to cover more expensive surgical procedures that may restore some sight to the visually impaired.

NEW GLASSES

The latest version of eSight's technology, built with investments of \$32 million over the past decade, is a gadget that vaguely resembles the visor worn by the blind "Star Trek" character Geordi La Forge, played by LeVar Burton.

The third-generation model lets wearers magnify the video feed up to 24 times, compared to just 14 times in earlier models. There's a hand control for adjusting brightness and contrast. The new glasses also come with a more powerful high-definition camera.

eSight believes that about 200 million people worldwide with visual acuity of 20/70 to 20/1200 could be potential candidates for its glasses. That number includes people with a variety of disabling eye conditions such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, ocular albinism, Stargardt's disease, or, like Regan, optic nerve hypoplasia.

So far, though, the company has sold only about 1,000 headsets,

despite the testimonials of wearers who've become true believers.

Take, for instance, Yvonne Felix, an artist who now works as an advocate for eSight after seeing the previously indistinguishable faces of her husband and two sons for the first time via its glasses. Others, ranging from kids to senior citizens, have worn the gadgets to golf, watch football or perform daily tasks.

EYEING THE COMPETITION

eSight isn't the only company focused on helping the legally blind. Other companies working on high-tech glasses and related tools.

But most of them are doing something very different. While their approaches also involve cameras attached to glasses, they don't magnify live video. Instead, they take still images, analyze them with image recognition software and then generate an automated voice that describes what the wearer is looking at — anything from a child to words written on a page.

Samuel Markowitz, a University of Toronto professor of ophthalmology, says that eSight's glasses are the most versatile option for the legally blind currently available, as they can improve vision at near and far distances, plus everything in between.

Markowitz is one of the researchers from five universities and the Center for Retina and Macular Disease that recently completed a clinical trial of eSight's second-generation glasses.



RON MEDVESCEK / ARIZONA DAILY STAR
Joe Coughlin, center, who commutes from Bakersfield, California, figures the \$225 UA course is costing him around \$4,000.

COMMUTER

Continued from Page A1

renowned linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky was teaching a seven-week politics course that started Jan. 12. The Tuesday/Thursday lecture class, co-taught with Professor Emeritus Marv Waterstone, explores climate change, nuclear weapons, militarism, globalization and capitalism's impact on social inequality.

"I immediately got on the phone," says Coughlin, who's read many of Chomsky's books and considers the man his hero. "I didn't know if outsiders could get into the class. I was going to talk my way in."

Turns out, community members — even if they're from a community 598.4 miles away — are more than welcome and account for 278 of those enrolled in the class, according to the UA. Another 232 are matriculated students. People start lining up at 4 p.m. for the 5 p.m. lecture. No one waltzes in late.

"It's an honor to be in the class," says Coughlin, who has two daughters in college. "We treat it as such."

Coughlin, who has always preferred road and rails to planes, has pretty much the same weekly travel itinerary. He leaves Sunday night to drive from his home on a bamboo-studded acre in Bakersfield for Los Angeles' Union Station. He folds his 6-foot-1 frame into a sleeping car — which costs more, \$200-ish versus \$47 to spend the night upright in a seat — and snoozes his way across state lines.

Then, he hightails it over to Prince of Tucson RV Park. Yeah, one day he skipped the bus and train and drove his RV over after finding out the hard way that February is high season here.

"The gem show ate up every hotel room in town," Coughlin says, forcing him to once take refuge all the way in Casa Grande and another time at a motel so skeezy that check-in and check-out happened pretty much simultaneously.

"I've had umpty-umpty problems, but it's been fun," he insists. "This experience has taught me to not have to be in control of everything. I tend to plan things out. I've become more easygoing."

Like, not flinching when his RV engine blew up on Grant Road. Or, the time he trekked all the way to Bakersfield, only to turn around and then drive 10 hours round trip to San Francisco. As part of his treatment for chronic myelogenous leukemia, he must head up there to get his blood drawn once a month. Now that, he says, was a commute.

Coughlin, who regularly speaks at schools and in seminars about life lessons through what he calls "Coconut College," figures the \$225 course is probably costing him around \$4,000. He hasn't yet tired of the grind because he gets so much out of the class. "It's just eye-opening," he says. "It's so mentally stimulating."

This is a dude who really values education.

Not that you'd guess from his high school transcripts. A solid C-minus student, college wasn't in the cards. His parents didn't encourage their three kids to go. The youngest, Coughlin says he "crashed and burned" as a young adult. He was stocking green-bean cans in a grocery store in Virginia without much of a future when he joined the Navy Reserve at 24.

Two years later, armed with a top-recruit award, Coughlin talked his way into a meeting with the dean of Virginia Commonwealth University, promising if he didn't earn straight A's, the dean could kick him out. Coughlin had a 3.9 GPA when he transferred to Arizona State University the following year. Don't hold his Sun Devilness against him, though. Coughlin — who met his wife, Leah, there — says he often thought about transferring to the University of Arizona. He much prefers the campus and vibe in Tucson.

Between lectures, Coughlin bides his time doing homework, shopping Urban Outfitters' book section and dining at La Cocina or Frog & Firkin. You'll spot him on campus toting a black backpack and Takamine guitar, which he taught himself to play by watching YouTube videos.

Because of Coughlin's always-hunker-down-in-the-front-row rule, he's actually sat next to Chomsky, who joins the students in the audience for Waterstone's Tuesday lectures.

"I don't know of anybody I more respect," Coughlin says. "He has no agenda, no ideology he's pushing. He's coming from the perspective of making the world a better place."

While he's talked to Waterstone, Coughlin has yet to chat up Chomsky.

"What I'd really like," Coughlin grins sheepishly, "is to get a picture with him."

Spoken like someone who's a card-carrying member of the Noam Chomsky Fan Club, which, he is. In a way, Coughlin has a blue plastic card with his name printed on it in white letters that must be scanned to prevent crashers from sneaking into the popular class.

Coughlin smiles. "It would be easier to get into Fort Knox."

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INCUBATOR

Continued from Page A1

treated in the early 20th century by Dr. Martin Couney. He was a pioneer in the use of incubators and sought acceptance for the technology by showing it off on carnival midways, fairs and other public venues. He never accepted money from the tiny babies' parents but instead charged ogles admission to see the babies struggling for life.

Horn said in 2015 that when her sister died at birth, doctors told her father to hold off on a funeral because she wouldn't survive the day.

"He said, 'Well, that's impossible. She's alive now. We have to do something for her,'" Horn said. "My father wrapped me in a towel and took me in a cab to the incubator. I went to



FRANK ELTMAN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS 2015
Lucille Horn was expected to die shortly after she was born in 1920.

Dr. Couney. I stayed with him quite a few days, almost five months."

Couney, who died in 1950 and is viewed today as a pioneer in neonatology, estimated that he successfully kept alive about 7,500 of the 8,500 children who were tak-

en to his "baby farm" at the Coney Island boardwalk. They remained there until the early 1940s, when incubators became widely used in hospitals.

He also put infants on display at the World's Fair and other public venues during his career. There's no estimate on how many are still alive today.

Horn worked as a crossing guard and then as a legal secretary for her husband. She is survived by three daughters and two sons. She said she met Couney when she was about 19 and thanked him for what he had done.

"I've had a good life," she said in 2015.

After a funeral Tuesday, she was buried at the Cemetery of the Evergreens in Brooklyn, next to her twin sister.

TRUMP

Continued from Page A1

calling "the opposition party?"

The president has chafed at a number of anonymously sourced stories, including numerous reports describing contacts between his campaign advisers and Russian intelligence agents, which the White House has sharply disputed.

However, members of his White House team regularly demand anonymity when talking to reporters. That was the case Friday morning when Trump officials briefed reporters on chief of staff Reince Priebus' contact with top FBI officials concerning the Russia reports.

Later Friday, after Trump's speech, several news organizations, including the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, CNN and Politico, were blocked from joining a White House media gaggle, according to news reports.

The Associated Press chose not to take part after the move by White House press secretary Sean Spicer. Lauren Easton, the AP's director of media relations, said in a prepared statement: "The AP believes the public should have as much access to the president as possible."

Trump's appearance at CPAC represented a triumph for both speaker and audience — each ascendant after years when they were far from the center of the political universe.

Elizabeth Connors of New York recalled past gatherings as collections of the "downtrodden."

Today, she said, "it's energized" after years in which "we've been just pushed down, pushed down, pushed down."

Nicholas Henderson of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, was there in his "Make America Great Again" hat and pronounced Trump's speech rousing.

"He touched on a lot of things we'd already heard before, which is reassuring, tells us he's still committed to those promises he made during the campaign," Henderson said.

Trump, who first appeared at CPAC as a reality TV star six years ago, recalled his past visits with nostalgia, saying the crowd helped put him on the path to the presidency.

"I loved the commotion," he said. "And then they did these polls where I went through the roof and I wasn't even running, right? But it gave me an idea."

From there, Trump's latest speech played out like a greatest hits reel from his 2016 campaign.

He reminisced about his victory in the Republican primaries. He vowed to "build the wall" along the Mexican border. He denounced Hillary Clinton's characterization of some of his supporters as belonging in a "basket of deplorables."

The crowd responded to his Clinton criticism with chants of "Lock her up!" just as they did at

Trump rallies last year.

As for Trump's criticism of anonymous sources, Gregg Leslie, legal defense director for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, said such arrangements are "essential to good reporting" in many cases.

"There are just some things that people will come forward about anonymously that they cannot discuss openly," Leslie said, citing potential threats to jobs and even personal safety.

The Associated Press uses anonymous sources only if the material is factual information, not opinion or speculation, and is vital to the news report. It must come from a person who is reliable and in a position to have accurate information.

Long ago, Trump himself played fast and loose with sourcing. In the 1990s, when his personal life was tabloid fodder, a "spokesman" who identified himself as John Miller would call to offer details about the businessman's failing marriage and the girlfriends he was juggling. But The Washington Post reported it was actually Trump, posing as his own publicist. In later years, Trump denied it, but he had owned up to it at the time, describing the Miller calls as a "joke gone awry," according to the Post.

All presidents have their moments of tension with the press, but Trump's first weeks in office have brought a frontal attack unlike anything from any other president.

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