

# Valley mom fights for in-state tuition for son and wins

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Goodyear, AZ -

College is expensive.

It costs even more when you're hit with out-of-state fees.

Margarita Perez and her son Alberto moved from Chicago in September, 2014. She says she knew she had not lived in Arizona long enough to be considered a resident, so she put the out-of-state tuition on her credit card.

The next year she expected their residency status to change. It didn't. So she called Estrella Mountain Community College to find out why.

"She apologized but said my son is going to be considered the whole year next semester out of state and that we have to pay," Margarita explained.

[According to its own rules](#), Maricopa County Community College District says that students are considered in-state once "the person is domiciled in this state for one year preceding the official starting day of the semester."

Margarita says she met that requirement. She appealed. She was denied.

"Two times I wrote the appeal, a letter for appeal and they didn't want to help me," she said.

"And that's when I decided to call ABC15 Let Joe Know."

Vounteer Grant with Assistance League of Phoenix took over. Connecting Margarita with the right people.

"They gave me an appointment the same day," she said.

She says after showing the department director proof of her residency things changed.

"Not only did he remove the \$881, he even told us that my son is going to receive a check by mail like \$500 dollars." Margarita says that money was for reimbursement for fees they had already paid.

And her son is officially an Arizona resident.

"I was very, very happy. I wanted to start crying," she said.

**A spokesperson for MCCCCD released a statement saying in part:** *"while we cannot comment on this specific student record, we encourage any student who has questions about their enrollment or financial aid status to contact their college's Enrollment Center staff. Helping students enroll in classes and navigate financial aid policies is our priority."*

Need my help?

Call volunteers with the Assistance League of Phoenix at 855-323-1515, email me at [Joe@abc15.com](mailto:Joe@abc15.com) or contact me on Facebook or Twitter.

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Let Joe Know protects YOU the consumer. We expose scams and hold businesses accountable for their contracts and agreements. Most important, we share consumer red flags before they hit your wallet!

ABC15's *Let Joe Know* reports air every weekday during *ABC15 News at 6pm* and online at [abc15.com/LetJoeKnow](http://abc15.com/LetJoeKnow).

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## LET JOE KNOW STORIES

### **Scammer threatens electricity shut off**

Customer questions how scammer got his account information



### **How to get the emergency help you need**

Phoenix Police are investigating claims that the owner of two apartment complexes, had tenants sign over their Social Security checks and prescriptions to him.



### **New computer scam hits Valley**

Instead of fake technicians calling you, you call them!



### **Valley mom fights for in-state tuition for son**

College expensive. It costs even more when you're hit with out-of-state fees.



### **Valley man out \$4.9K after car purchase**

Chandra Chodagam paid \$6,100 to Ride and Drive Auto LLC in North Phoenix for a car, but says he never received the title.



### **Publisher's Clearing House calling?**

Publisher's Clearing House (PCH) is a legitimate sweepstakes that gives away millions of dollars in prizes every year.



### **4 ways to protect your money in 2017**

Follow these steps and cut your chances of getting scammed.



### **Businesses want money back for scrapped app**

Two businesses in North Scottsdale accuse a mobile app developer of taking their money, and never delivering the product.



### **Homeowners say HOA violated voting rules**

The fight over pieces of valuable land in Laveen has had neighbors in the Cottonfields Community at odds with one another for years.



### **What to do with gift cards if a business closes**

There are options depending on how the business shut down



### **Resolve to keep more of your money in 2017**

We're a few days into 2017 and if you haven't made it to the gym yet, no worries. Because we've got some financial resolutions that you can actually keep.



### **Woman wants refund for ambulance bill**

She tries for months to get back an \$86 refund.



## TOP STORIES

### **FORECAST: Third winter blast arrives today!**

A third winter wallop is bringing rain, snow and strong winds to our state today. Find out what to expect in your area.



### **Man stabbed by stranger at Glendale gas pump**

Glendale police are looking for the suspect involved in a Sunday night stabbing.



### **FD: Off-duty Daisy Mtn. firefighter killed**

A 12-year veteran of the Daisy Mountain Fire Department died Saturday night.



**RADAR: Winter storm bringing rain, snow to AZ**

Rain and snow are moving into Arizona -- check out our interactive radar here.

**Wrong-way driver causes crash on I-17**

Arizona Department of Public Safety troopers have a lot of questions for a wrong way driver who caused a crash on Interstate 17 in north Phoenix.

**SNOW DAY: Flagstaff schools closed Monday 1/23**

An approaching winter storm Sunday night had school administrators in the high country canceling classes for Monday.

**Minimum wage hike causes AZ prices to rise**

Consumers are paying more at valley restaurants and businesses -- in response to Prop 206.

**Trump plans to withdraw from TPP trade deal**

President Donald Trump's first executive action on Monday will be to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, two sources familiar with matter told CNN.

**Luke Bryan will sing Super Bowl national anthem**

Luke Bryan follows in the footsteps of Lady Gaga, who performed the national anthem at the 2016 Super Bowl and is the halftime show performer at this year's event.

**Trial set for Phoenix porn studio owner**

Lawyers are scheduled to make opening statements Monday at the trial of an Arizona porn studio owner charged with operating a brothel.

**Conway: ACA switch has Medicaid block grants**

Two Republican senators are set to introduce legislation Monday to replace Obamacare amid mounting pressure on the GOP to craft an alternative to the massive healthcare law.

**Nonprofit needs donations after trailer stolen**

A nonprofit that specializes in searching for missing people is asking for the communities help after one of its trailers was stolen.

**Sierra Nevada beer issues 36-state recall**

Sierra Nevada is recalling its beer in 36 states because glass can break off and fall into the bottle.

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## **Apple supplier could create 50K jobs in US**

One of Apple's biggest suppliers says it may spend more than \$7 billion to build a new factory on U.S. soil that would create tens of thousands of jobs.

## **Florida HS closed Monday for 'apparent tornado'**

The Palm Beach County, Florida School District said William T. Dwyer High School is closed Monday for "apparent tornado damage." All other public schools are open. 

## **Dad hilariously panics over bison blockade**

While traveling through Yellowstone National Park, this family encountered a road blockage that made dad get a little nervous.


## **Here's the most expensive home in the US**

America's most expensive property is officially on the market. The price to purchase it? No less than \$250 million.

## **10 signs you are living with a threenager**

After the terrible twos there is a little-talked-about phase known as the threenager.

## **Tornado deaths over weekend exceed 2016 toll**

Millions of coastal residents along the Eastern seaboard and in California are facing potentially disastrous storms Monday as deadly winter weather systems continue to churn. 

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## **Falcons, Patriots advance to Super Bowl LI**

The New England Patriots defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 36 to 17 on Sunday in the AFC Championship.

## **United Airlines resumes flights after IT issue**

United Airlines grounded all domestic mainline flights Sunday night because of a computer problem.

