

The Lineworker Commitment: A Wife's Perspective

BY SADIE BEACH

My husband, Brendon Beach, is a Journeyman Lineman for San Isabel Electric Association.

When I was asked to write a piece for Lineworker Appreciation Month, I worried I wouldn't know what to write. Conveying to others how much I appreciate everything my husband does seems impossible. However, I still think it's worth my effort. My hope is that I can give readers a peek inside our lives, and maybe a new perspective for the next time the power snaps off in the middle of cooking dinner. (It always happens at the worst possible moment, doesn't it?)

We have three children: Micah, Isaac, and Adelia. Their favorite time of day is when they see Dad's headlights brighten the driveway. But they know that some days they don't get to see those lights. There are many times that Brendon works long after the kids have been tucked into bed, and he is back at work before they wake up. Sometimes, they go days without seeing each other. There have been birthdays, holidays, and many other events in our lives that my husband has had to miss because he was doing the job that he loves to do and excels at.

Many people see SIEA trucks around the community, but it is easy to forget that, much like our first responders, linemen have dangerous jobs. There is no switch to flip at headquarters when there's an outage. When the power goes out, lineworkers have to go out and physically locate exactly what caused the power outage, and then calculate the most efficient way to get the electricity back on for everyone. The level of training it takes to safely fix the outage while on a power pole or in a bucket truck in icy sleet, in ferocious southern Colorado wind, or in the dark of midnight, is strenuous to say the least. The job demands quick thinking, skill, and physical strength at a moment's notice. It involves waking up at 2 a.m., working long shifts, and navigating through natural disasters such as wildfires and flash floods. Every lineworker's wife in America is familiar with the heartwarming relief of seeing their husband coming in red-eyed, cold, and wind-blown — yet never too tired to pick up their gleeful children in a bear hug.

I truly wish that, instead of cursing over a half-cooked casserole, our community would say a quick prayer for our linemen every time the power goes out — much in the same way we do for first responders



▲ Sadie and Brendon Beach with their kids (left to right) Isaac, Micah, and Adelia.

when we hear sirens. For me, it's something I seem to have been subconsciously trained to do in our marriage — I know if it's not my husband, then it is someone else's husband, father, brother, or son out in challenging conditions trying to solve the problem.

When I think of the little struggles I face every day raising three kids, I am grateful I have the perspective of a lineworker's wife. I know how fortunate I am to have a husband who faces his work with fearless competence every day for the sake of his family and his community. Our children are equally as proud. Our son, Isaac, loves to proclaim to strangers, "My daddy works for San Isabel Electric Association, and he fixes the power lines!"

I extend my deepest gratitude to all SIEA lineworkers, and those across the state and country who strive tirelessly for our comfort, our homes, our businesses, our hospitals, and our community. The world would be a darker place without you!

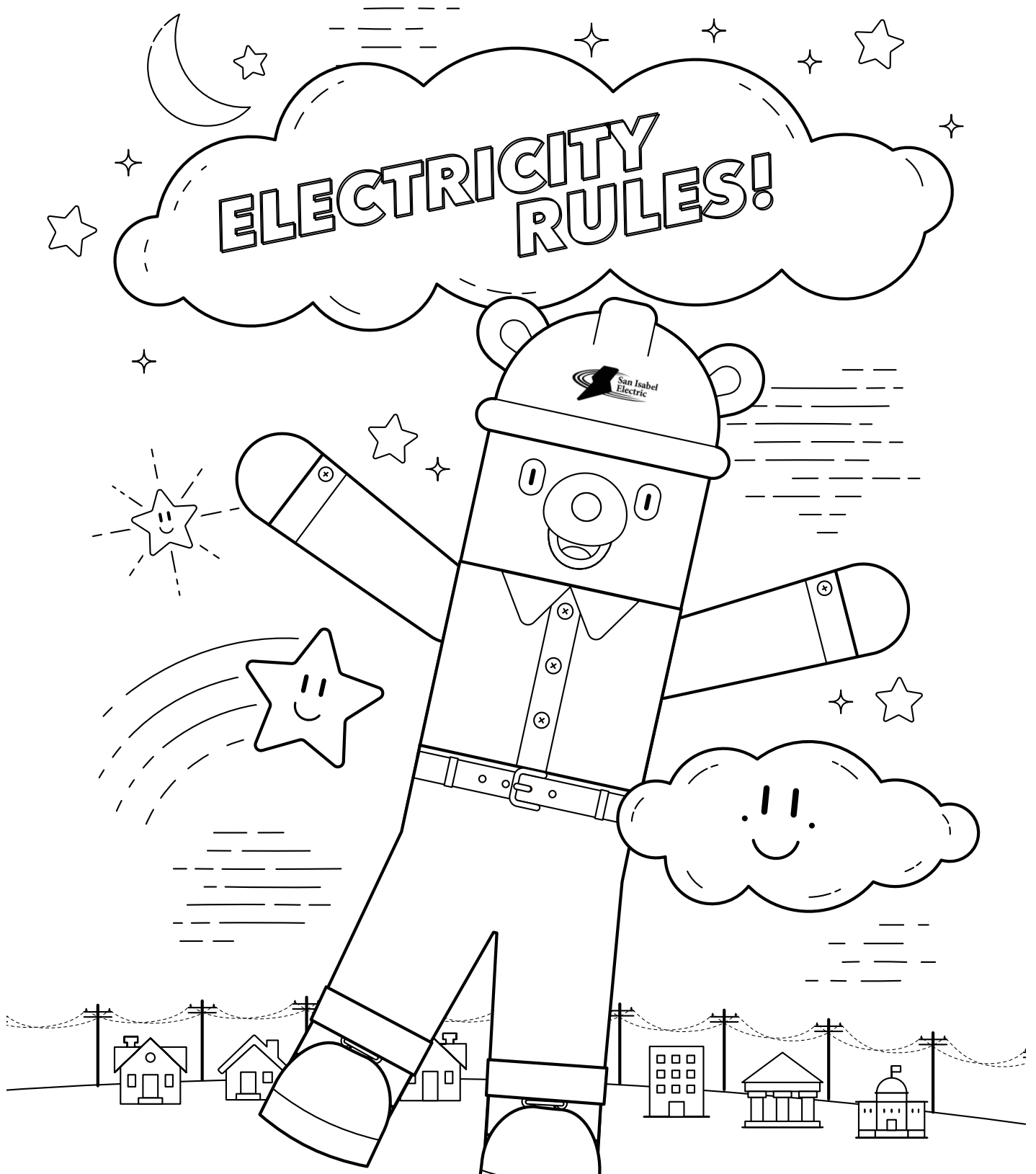
Tragically, Brendon died in an auto accident after a morning of skiing about a week after Sadie submitted her story. A GoFundMe page has been set up for Sadie and their kids. Please scan the QR code if you'd like to help.



▲ SIEA Journeyman Lineman Brendon Beach hugs his son at the end of a workday.

GOT POWER? THANK A LINEWORKER

To thank a lineworker for their hardwork and sacrifice, please color this page and return it to a local San Isabel Electric office near you. Pages will be displayed for line-workers to see.



UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Beginning on page 10 and continuing in the center of this magazine, you will find a list of names of people who have an unclaimed capital credit from San Isabel Electric.

The electric cooperative publishes the unclaimed capital credit list every April in an attempt to notify member-owners that the co-op issued them a capital credit check for at least \$10, and that check has not been cashed.

Now, searching and claiming your capital credits is quick and easy. You can look for your name in the printed list, or you can now search an online database at siea.com/capitalcredits to see if we owe capital credits to you or one of your family members. If you're a current or former member and find your name, you can fill out an online claim, email capitalcredits@siea.com, or give us a call at 800-279-SIEA (7432) to start a claim.

Capital credit is money back, based on

how much electricity is purchased by the member-owner in a given year. Most utilities pocket leftover money as profit when revenues are more than expenses. Electric co-ops set aside that money for members as capital credit, based on the amount of energy each member purchases. When it's financially prudent to do so, the co-op retires (returns) the money to members. Members receive their share as a check right in their mailbox.

In September 2023, those who were SIEA members from 1978-1983, and in 1991 and 2021 received capital credits checks in the mail, reflecting their ownership of the cooperative during those years. More than 21,000 capital credit checks were mailed to San Isabel Electric members. \$1.4 million in capital credits was returned to the co-op's membership.

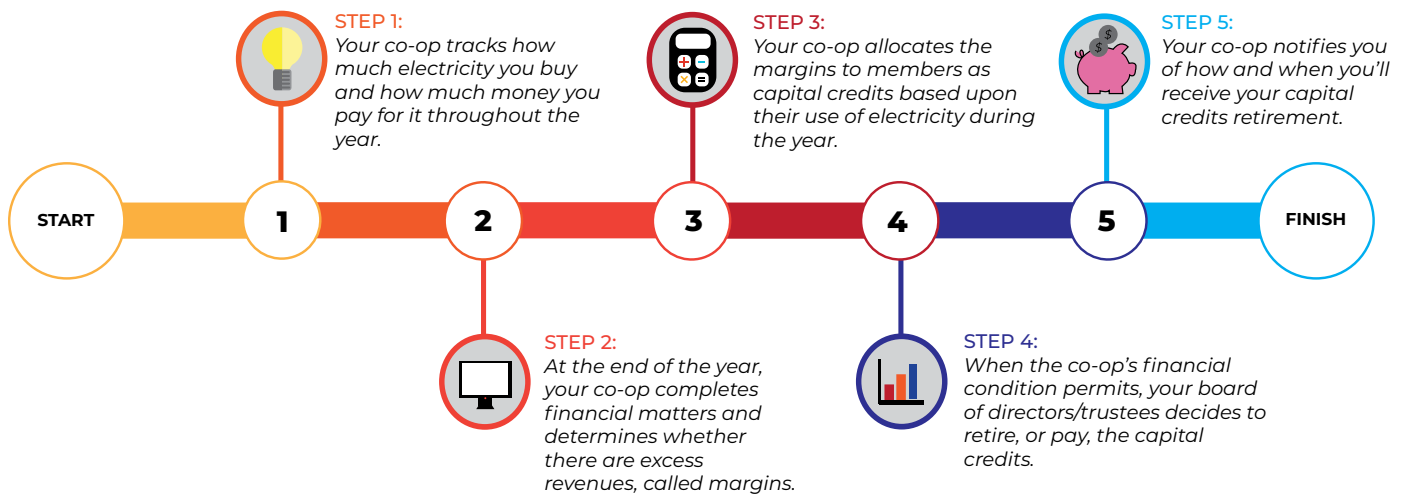
A full list of members with capital credits in their name will be published on

the co-op's website at siea.com/capitalcredits by June 1. If a member-owner has not claimed their capital credit after three years, the co-op uses the money to fund scholarship programs and area service efforts approved by the board of directors. The unclaimed money goes toward supporting hospitals, fire stations, county fairs, school sports, local chambers of commerce, and more.

Unlike investor owned utilities, electric cooperatives are exempt from writing off any money that is returned to the community as a tax write off. Members are encouraged to leave forwarding addresses with San Isabel Electric should they move off the system. In the case of a member's death, a representative of the estate should contact San Isabel Electric to determine the status of the member's capital credit checks, both now and in the future.

HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



DO YOU SEE YOUR NAME ON THE LIST?

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2205 Pope Valley Properties | Aguilar, Rogelio | Allen, Kristy | Anderson, D E | Aragon, Desiree D | Armijo, James L | Aufrichtig, Ralph H |
| A & B Radiator LLC | Aguilar Tv Club | Allen, Ricky J | Anderson, Don | Aragon, Desiree K | Armijo, Josephine | Auld, Donald F |
| A & K Repair | Aguirre, Anna | Allen, Robert | Anderson, Duane M | Aragon, Dino L | Armijo, Juanita J | Austen, J Hiv |
| A 1 Auto Service | Aguirre, Arthur | Allen, Robert G | Anderson, Elizabeth | Aragon, Eugene | Armijo, Stella | Austin, Fred W Sr |
| A T & T Communications | Aguirre, Bertha | Allen, Shelli K | Anderson, Fred M | Aragon, Frances | Armijo, Tony L | Austin, Michaela |
| Aanonsen, Toni | Aguirre, Calvin J | Allen, Susan M | Anderson, James R | Aragon, Jessica M | Armstrong, Corbin | Austin, Ola |
| Aaroe, Aimee | Aguirre, Dorothy L | Allen, Terry L | Anderson, John D | Aragon, Joe M | Armstrong, Joseph A | Auten, Glynn T |
| Ab Co LLC | Aguirre, Edward S | Allen, William L | Anderson, Leo | Aragon, John J | Armstrong, Joyce M | Autry, Charles |
| Abbrecht, Brian | Aguirre, Emilie G | Alley, Robert | Anderson, Leslie B | Aragon, Lorin V | Armstrong, Russell T | Avalos, Joseph A |
| Abel, Greg | Aguirre, Franklin A | Allgire, Robert L | Anderson, Mark | Aragon, Louise E | Arnett, Richard A | Avco Financial Services |
| Abell, Betty B | Aguirre, Guillermina | Alliance Insurance Soco Inc | Anderson, Michael D | Aragon, Marlene A | Arnett, Richard L | Avery, Doris E |
| Abernathy, Fred E | Aguirre, Hubert B | Allison, Arla | Anderson, Mike S | Aragon, Miguel | Arnhold, Todd | Avery, Landon L |
| Abeyta, Andrew A | Aguirre, Josephine M | Allison, Brandon J | Anderson, Nathan D | Aragon, Norma J | Arnold, Gilbert | Avi, Elaine |
| Abeyta, Benjamin G | Aguirre, Lawrence | Allison, Michael | Anderson, Nita | Aranda, Rosario | Arnold, Marcus A | Avi, Elaine L |
| Abeyta, Betty | Aguirre, Mike | Allison, Michael | Anderson, Richard B | Arburn, Robert | Arnold, Norma | Avila, Labettina |
| Abeyta, Connie | Aguirre, Porfirio | Allison, Orlando C | Anderson, Robert L | Archer, Carl | Arnold, Patricia R | Avila, Patty |
| Abeyta, Frank M | Aguirre, Porfirio Jr | Allison, Robert C | Anderson, Rodney K | Archer, Cindy K | Arnold, Ricky L | Avila, Timothy R |
| Abeyta, Keith J | Aho, Kathy M | Allison, Thomas G | Anderson, Travis R | Archer, Robert W | Arnold, Robert B | Avila, Tyra M |
| Abeyta, Michael J | Ahrens, Jeremy J | Allman, Clesson D | Andrade, Michael M | Archuleta, Bertha A | Arnot, Charles W | Avila-Padilla, Rose A |
| Abeyta, Michael J | Aiken, Elizabeth M | Allman, Laura L | Andreatta, Barbara | Archuleta, Brian | Arnt, James M | Awmiller, Susan L |
| Abeyta, Monica C | Aiken, Hile | Allsup, John V | Andreatta, Carroll A | Archuleta, Daniel | Arriaga, Iris K | Ayers, Andrea L |
| Abeyta, Sarah | Akey, Ivan D | Almarez, Anthony | Andreatta, David Lee | Archuleta, George D | Arthur, Gladys | Ayler, Sage C |
| Abila, Ida D | Akhtar, Nasim | Almarez, Raymond Jr | Andreatta, Eric | Archuleta, Gus | Arthurs, Stephen Rmd | Ayres, Donald E |
| Abila, Isaac E | Akins, Bobby E | Almarez, Tom M | Andreatta, Frank | Archuleta, Irene | Artus, Bruce | B P O E Elks Home |
| Abila, Ivan P | Albanese, Erma | Almasi, Elsa L | Andreatta, Hillary C | Archuleta, J C | Arutunoff, Sergai | Babb, Katherine V |
| Abplanalp, Paul | Albee, Michael L | Alpine Oil and Royalty | Andreatta, Jill | Archuleta, Jeanne M | Arviso, Gwendolyn H | Babcock, Gene |
| Abrahamson, Robert | Albers, Joshua J | Alpine Rose Cafe | Andreatta, Loretta | Archuleta, Joe C | Arwine, Pamela | Baca, Billia |
| Acar, Tizoc | Albin, Don | Alps, Clifford M | Andreatta, Michelle R | Archuleta, John F | Asbury, James E | Baca, Christella A |
| Ackerman, Sheri A | Albo, Carol | Alquist, Paula | Andrews, Charles J | Archuleta, Malaquias | Asche, Kim L | Baca, James |
| Acorn Construction Co | Albo, Carol J | Alspough, Deborah R | Andrews, Curtis | Archuleta, Marina | Aschermann, Arla R | Baca, James P Jr |
| Acosta, Davis Olga | Albrink, Karl | Alvarado, Billy | Andrews, Linda | Archuleta, Mary | Aschom, Jeffery C | Baca, Michael G |
| Acuff, Keith L | Albritton, Roy S | Alvarado, Jennifer R | Angaran, Angelo | Archuleta, Megan N | Aseltine, Betty J | Baca, Pamela M |
| Acuff, Shayna M | Alderman, Scott | Alvarado, Larry W | Angel, Ronald R | Archuleta, Troy | Ashby, Eleanor | Baca, Ray |
| Adair, Raymond | Aldred, Patricia | Alvarado, Melody | Angelovich, Rex | Archuleta, William | Ashby, Mary E | Baca, Robert S |
| Adams, Aaron R | Aldretti, Anthony G | Alvarado, Walter A | Anger, Scott E | Archuletta, Macy D | Ashe, Magdalena | Baca, Sam |
| Adams, Alva B Jr | Aldretti, Tammy J | Alvarez, Destin | Angie's Liquor Express | Arco Oil & Gas Company | Ashley, Clower F | Baca, Tomacita |
| Adams, Barry | Aleshire, Thomas | Alvarez, Saturnino | Annas, Acres | Ard, Kirt D | Ashurst, Robert C | Baca, Yolanda R |
| Adams, Christopher | Alessi, John Do | Alvidrez, Cynthia | Annet's Beauty Shop | Arellano, Alan | Askew, Rex A | Bacca, Kathy |
| Adams, Darrell E | Alessi, John R | Alvis, Adria | Anon, Jason A | Arellano, Felix M | Askew, W A Jr | Bachicha, Jose R |
| Adams, David A | Alexander, C W Jr | Am West Savings Assoc | Ans Enterprises | Arellano, Fred | Asklof, Helle B | Bachicha, Manuel |
| Adams, Jack W | Alexander, Robert L | Amador, Virginia | Ansel, Sharon K | Arellano, Jose V Jr | Aspen Leaf Joint | Bachicha, Ralph J |
| Adams, Jeremy C | Alexander, Robert V | Amann, Peggy S | Anselmo, Todd J | Argo, Mark D | Venture I | Back, Tammy |
| Adams, Keith W | Alexandrowicz, John S | Amato, Brothers | Ansley, Brian L | Argon 2 All LLC | Aspen Leaf Laundry | Bacon-Applegate, Lynne L |
| Adams, Lindsey | Alfano, Pietro | Amaya, George D | Ansley, Stephen | Arguello, Christopher M | Asti, Wilma B | Bado, John T |
| Adams, Loni E | Alfimow, Victor | Ambler, Jesse V | Anthony, Paul L | Arguello, David M | Atchison, Daisy M | Bagby, W M |
| Adams, Oliver W | Alfonso, Daimi | Amburgy, Leonard A | Antle, Annette | Arguello, Joanie | Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe RR | Baggett, Joe B |
| Adams, Robert H | Alfonso, Joseph | Ambush, LLC | Antle, J M | Arguello, Juanita G | Atencio, Betty J | Bagwell, John H |
| Adams, Ruth W | Alfonso, Roxanna P | American Fuels Inc | Antonioni, Arthur | Arguello, Richard | Atencio, Francisco L | Bailey, Antionette |
| Adams, Sharon | Algien, Celina | Ames, Lonnie | Antu, Luis M | Arguello, Silvano Lmd | Atencio, Penny | Bailey, Bernadine M |
| Adams, V K | Alice, Schultz Trust | Amick, Harry | Antu, Patricia E | Arguello, Simon F | Atencio, Titus | Bailey, Bill |
| Adams, William M | Alires, Mary | Amidei, Lee | Antu, Tonya M | Arguello, Susan | Atilano-Montoya, Jessica L | Bailey, Brooke |
| Addington, Orpha M | Aljinovich, Jay J | Amigo, Net | Apishapa Land & Cattle | Arguello, Susan M | Arias, Ernest H | Bailey, Greg |
| Adkins-Null, Debra K | All Pro Farms | Amman-Kelly, Sandra L | Apodaca, Florida O | Arias, Ernest H | Arie, Jonna L | Bailey, Kenneth |
| Adkison, Tim | All Seasons Sports | Amoco Production-Rato | Apodaca, Louis Jr | Arko, John Jr | Arko, Leandra M | Bailey, Larry J |
| Adler, Marissa R | Allee, Dale D | Amparan, Dolores | Apodaca, Martha | Arking, Group 1 | Armijo, Anthony J | Bailey, Mary |
| Ager, Raeann | Allee, Kathi | Anders, Carolyn | Apple, Alvera | Armijo, Anthony J | Armijo, Edward D | Bailey, Robin P |
| Aggen, Myra | Alleman, Ashley | Anderson, Alan | Appleby, Patty A | Armijo, Ersie E | Armijo, Jacqueline M | Bailey, Ruby L |
| Aguilar, Drug | Allen, Brian | Anderson, Austin | Applehunt, Eva | Armijo, Edward D | | Bailey, T W |
| Aguilar, Frank A | Allen, Donald F | Anderson, Barbara | Appleton, John A | | | Baione, Pete |
| Aguilar Recreation Center | Allen, Dorothy A | Anderson, Betty F | Aragon, Adam A | | | Baird, Harry E |
| | Allen, Jim | Anderson, Carolyn | Aragon, Adoro | | | |

[list continues in the center insert]