

WeatherfordNOW

M A G A Z I N E

APRIL 2018

Top Tier Leader

Sarah Porter does her best with Arabian horses and wins awards

Featured Business:
Chapman's Carpentry

In the Kitchen With
Phyllis Peel

Built to Last

At Home With
Chuck and Soraya Myers

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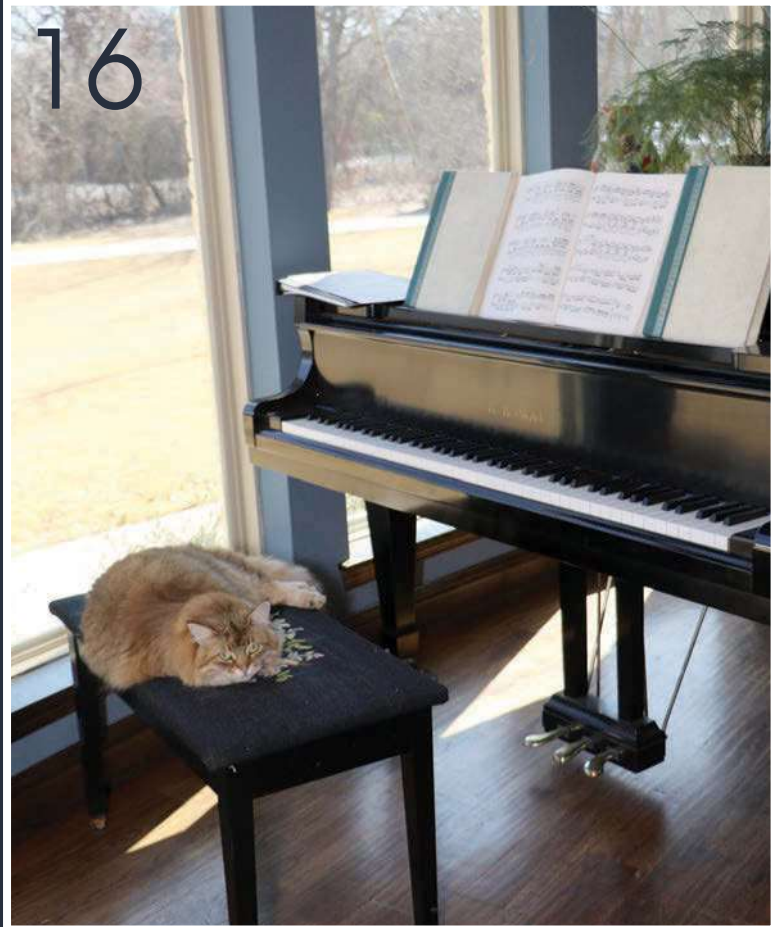
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ON THE COVER

Sarah Porter and her Arabian horse share mutual love and admiration.

Photo by
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Pushing Boundaries

— By Amber D. Browne

With decades of experience performing in bands, the five members of the Christian band, Atomic Apostle, know best how to share their instruments' sounds with the audience and create lyrics that often push boundaries. The bandmates' musical knowledge guides Atomic Apostle's ability to share God's message with the world.

Weatherford resident Brian Fleming, on keyboards, founded the band in 1999, and Jim Comfort, joined soon after as drummer and lead vocalist. Although members have come and gone over the past two decades, the current lineup appears to be the perfect union. Joe Love, guitarist and vocalist, became part of the group in 2003, and Dean Bullock joined in 2009, as percussionist and vocalist, but stepped in as bass player after teaching himself the instrument. Jay Hubbard joined several years ago for guitar and vocals.

The band members live and work across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, but Jay is the only member native to Texas. The others grew up in various states and just happened to be in the right place at the right time to join the band. "How all of us got together in one place to play was just extraordinary," Jim shared

They have been showcasing their musical talents since they were children, and Jim and Dean both performed with the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. Performing in secular bands over the years has given Atomic Apostle members an opportunity to develop style and ability. "I've been playing for 30-some years, and they're probably the best players I've ever performed with," Jim shared.

Although Atomic Apostle is labeled a Christian band, it is not traditional praise and worship, but encompasses a variety of genres. "We can go into a church and play or go into a rock club to play, or a festival. We have a lot of material," Brian stated. Brian typically writes song lyrics, but the final product is a collaboration of all the band members. The original lyrics stem from an experience — something the members have lived through, found a solution for and want to share with listeners. "We have to be genuine."

The band meets at Brian's home to jam. That's where most of their ideas are shared. "The song comes together when you all look at each other and go, "That's it, man. We got it," Jim shared.

The sound of Atomic Apostle has matured over the years. Their first album embodies more of a rock format, while their latest album, *Approaching Storm*, has a country vibe, although they are still a Christian rock band. It includes a 13-minute progressive rock epic that tells a story through instrumentals. "We just want to put out good music," Brian said. "When we go out and play, it's all about honoring the Lord." **NOW**