

# Elvis tribute artist Jake Slater wows the crowd

BY DAVID MOE  
WEEKLY VOICE

REED CITY — Born 16 years after the death of the performer baby boomers call “The King,” 19-year-old Jake Slater definitely keeps the memory of Elvis Presley alive.

Just ask any of the more than 300 who attended his performance Friday evening at Rambadt Park in Reed City. They’ll tell you that he looks like Elvis, talks like Elvis, walks like Elvis, shakes like Elvis, and sings like Elvis. Had Elvis been present, he’d certainly have been proud.

Born in Saginaw, Slater grew up in a small farming community of St. Charles in the Saginaw River Valley. “Life was pretty simple then,” he said. “I lived for my go-cart, shooting guns, playing with my dog, and working on old cars with my grandpa.”

His fascination with Elvis, however, didn’t happen until the first or second grade.

“My interest in ‘The King’ came when my grandparents acquired the Internet. One night I was listening to a ’50s radio station when they played a recording of Elvis singing ‘Hound Dog,’ and from that moment on, I was hooked.”

Slater said he started buy-

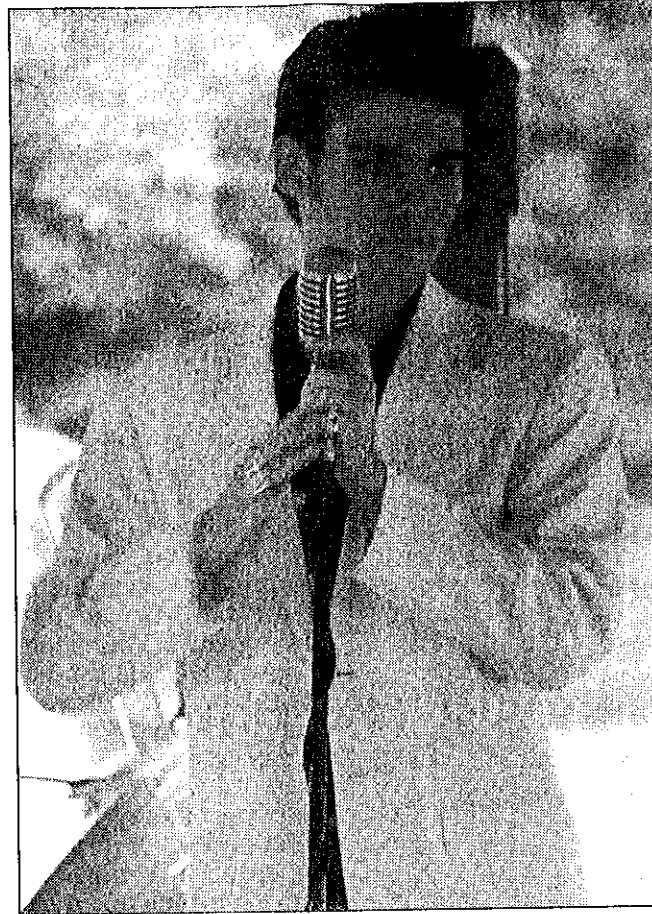
ing Elvis CDs and movies and watching them in his spare time. And like Elvis, when he was 13 years old he moved north.

“Elvis moved from Tupelo, Mississippi to Memphis, and I moved from St. Charles to Bellaire,” Slater said. “My mom used to call me ‘The Fresh Prince of Bellaire.’”

Initially, Slater’s performances were limited to family parties and gatherings. But in 2008, he started performing for the public.

“Since then I’ve performed in military clubs around Traverse City, done benefit shows for different causes, played in restaurants and bars across the state, and am just now getting into the world of Elvis festivals and competitions. It’s a wild, fun ride, and I fully intend to ride the wave as long as I can hold on to it.”

Slater will be performing June 18 at the Bonfire Grill in Tustin; July 15 at the Grand Traverse Pavilions; July 16 at the 2010 Street Legends Car Show in Charlevoix; July 23 at the Grand Traverse Industries Aero Park in Traverse City; July 24 at Butch’s Marina in Bellaire; Aug. 3 at The Beach Bums of Traverse City; and Aug. 7 at the Woodland Creek Classic Car Show in Acme.



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Jake Slater performs “Blue Suede Shoes.”