



Beau Cabell/The Telegraph

Wilkinson County resident Rebecca Walker practices pitching horseshoes and making people laugh during a visit to the Macon Senior Citizens Center on Wednesday.

# Star appeal

By Liz Fabian  
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Some people spend their whole lives waiting to be discovered by Hollywood. Not Wilkinson County's Rebecca Walker. It only took 86 years for her to get the call.

A couple of months ago, when Walker was slinging horseshoes in Macon's Golden Olympics, she never dreamed it could possibly catapult her to the bright lights of national television. Her colorful comments printed in the May 2 edition of The Telegraph caught the eye of a research assistant for a new talk show hosted by Ellen DeGeneres.

"Oh, I'm very excited," Walker said. "I've been to a lot of places, but I've never been to Hollywood."

When asked what she thought Hollywood would be like,

Wilkinson  
senior's  
spark  
catches  
Hollywood  
researcher's  
eye

## STAR

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she quipped, "What I make it, because I'm going to be queen when I get there."

Although it's far from certain she will be selected to be on the show, the researcher was interested enough to request a video of Walker.

"When he read (the article), her personality came through, but he wanted to see her," said LaCondra Parks, director of the Wilkinson County Senior Citizens Center.

Parks traveled to Macon on Wednesday with Walker and about a half dozen other senior citizens to record a taped audition. She threw a few horseshoes and

expounded on how she uses humor to put a little spark in the lives of others.

Walker donned a white cap, white vest and white cropped pants with a tan striped blouse to smile for the camera. Three Golden Olympic medals hung around her neck, two golds for horseshoes and a bronze she's particularly fond of for golf. She admits she has a real soft spot in her heart for Tiger Woods. There's a little dog she made out of golf balls and a tee waiting for him at her home. She'll send it to him if she ever finds his address.

DeGeneres' show, which is set to have its debut Sept. 8, will be screening numerous tapes looking for youngsters and oldsters with that special

something they can't really define. They just know it when they see it.

Larry Wright, the senior activities director of Macon Parks and Recreation Department, came to Tattnell Square Park on his day off to assist in the taping. He definitely sees something in Walker.

"She's a jewel. I'd just like to be going to California, too," Wright said with a smile.

Although it may be a long shot for the Sunday School teacher to be tossing horseshoes with DeGeneres on national television, Wright thinks Walker has something to share.

"It shows seniors do have a life, and once they get 80 their life is not over with," Wright

said.

Parks, who plans activities for Walker and the other Wilkinson County seniors, is impressed by her energy and enthusiasm.

Even at 86, she said she drives herself everywhere.

"I have a little bitty ol' Lincoln," Walker said humbly.

"It's a 1991 pearly white Lincoln Towncar," Parks elaborated.

"Well you know, I don't want to brag, I was just blessed with it, you know," Walker said.

Walker proves time and again she's ready for new challenges, Parks said.

"She knows it all," Parks said. "If she doesn't, she's always willing to learn and always willing to share what she's learned."

While Walker may be a little leery of getting on an airplane if she is chosen to appear on the program, she probably won't be shy.

"She loves the spotlight," Parks said. "She's a real go-getter, fun and she makes people laugh all the time."

After posing for pictures, Walker assumed a prima donna stance and said, "That's enough," rolling her eyes. "I'm getting tired."

As her senior friends got up

from the benches under the shady trees in the park, Walker joked about inviting them all to dinner.

"I might call up and get a limousine to carry us to dinner," she said, then paused. "I'm a dreamer, and I'm a liar," she then said laughing.

She sauntered her way back to the transport bus to carry her home to Wilkinson County where she'll probably stay unless Hollywood calls back again.

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