

LIFE + NEIGHBORS

THURSDAY IN LIFE + FOOD
**6 SUPER BOWL
PARTY TIPS,
RECIPES INCLUDED**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN PALMER

Kayoko Dan, the new music director and conductor of the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestra, has been a hit with orchestra members since she started in July.

THE BATON IS HER INSTRUMENT

CKYO conductor Kayoko Dan brings energy to role

UPCOMING CKYO CONCERTS

■ Frankfort Arts Concert, Symphony and Jazz Arts Orchestras, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27. Kentucky State University, Bradford Hall. Presented by the Frankfort Arts Foundation. For tickets, call (502) 875-4278 or e-mail FAF@DCR.net.

■ Teen Arts Concert, 7 p.m. March 21. Lexington Opera House.

■ Preparatory Orchestra Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m. April 27. Singletary Center for the Arts.

■ Mother's Day Concert, Symphony and Concert Orchestras, 3 p.m. May 9 at the Singletary Center for the Arts. For tickets to the Lexington concerts, call the Singletary Ticket Office, (859) 257-4929.

By Robin Roenker

Contributing Writer

She began playing piano at age 2 in her native Japan, but Kayoko Dan doesn't consider herself a pianist.

Dan, the new music director and conductor of the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras, played flute in marching band through high school in Houston, Texas — where her family moved when she was 8 — and then in college while pursuing a bachelor's degree in music education at the University of Texas, but she doesn't consider herself a flutist, either.

And she picked up the cello during graduate school at Arizona State University, where she received a master's degree in music education and a doctorate in conducting, but she says, "I'm not that
See DAN, B5



Kayoko Dan worked with the string section during a practice in January. Dan said her job with the youth orchestra fulfills her goal of being a music educator.

Clooney, 'Crazy Heart' link Oscars and Kentucky



**RICH
COPLY**
HERALD-LEADER
CULTURE COLUMNIST

Lexington native George Clooney is again an Oscar nominee, this year for *Up in the Air*, a movie that got a lot of love from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences when nominations were announced Tuesday morning.

The film, about a man who has untethered himself from any personal commitments, also got nods for best picture, best

supporting actress for Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick, best director for Jason Reitman, and best adapted screenplay for Reitman and Sheldon Turner. This is the third acting nomination for Clooney, who won best supporting actor of 2005 for *Syriana* and was nominated for best actor of 2007 for *Michael Clayton*. He also was nominated for best director of 2005 for *Good Night, and Good Luck*, and the screenplay, which he co-wrote, was nominated for best screenplay. In



George Clooney gets another shot at bringing home the Oscar for best actor.

addition to *Up in the Air*, Clooney's *Fantastic Mr. Fox* was nominated for best animated feature.

If precedent-setting awards are any indicator, though, Clooney probably will end up applauding Jeff Bridges when the Oscars are handed out March 7, live on ABC.

Bridges — who filmed two movies in the Lexington area, 1999's *Simpatico* and 2003's *Seabiscuit* — has picked up the Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award, among several other honors,

The nominees: For Oscar nominations in key categories, turn to **Page B5**.

for his performance as an aging country musician in *Crazy Heart*.

The movie, scheduled to open Friday in Lexington, also has Kentucky ties to writer and director Scott Cooper, who grew up in Somerset.

That's the local interest in Oscar, although the world will be buzzing about the Academy's new 10-feature slate of best-picture nominees, and which blockbusters made it in alongside the art-house
See CÖPLEY, B5

Social stimulus project is paying off

Idea benefits diverse neighborhoods



**TOM
EBLEN**
HERALD-LEADER
COLUMNIST

Last year, economists thought America needed economic stimulus.

Debra Hensley thought Lexington needed social stimulus.

So the former three-term Urban County Council member sent an invitation to everyone on her e-mail list, set up tables and chairs in the front yard of her insurance agency across from Commonwealth Stadium, and fired up the grill.

A diverse crowd showed up for lunch that Friday in June. An even bigger crowd came in July. "Then I thought, 'Step back. What are you really trying to do?'" Hensley said.

That's when she created Debra's Social Stimulus, a project dedicated to "people, planet, purpose." She took her project on the road — and online with a Web site (www.debrassocialstimulus.com) and a Facebook page.

Since last fall, Hensley has organized increasingly larger events in three Lexington neighborhoods. A fourth event is planned Friday, from 5 to 8 p.m., in a barrel house on the grounds of the former Old Pepper Distillery, 1200 Manchester Street. As always, everyone is welcome.

"When we're in difficult times, it's especially important that we stay connected," Hensley said. "But it's more than that."

"I want people to see parts of the community they might not know much about and learn about our history and culture. I want them to meet and interact with people they might not otherwise. And I want them to help the local economy."

Debra's Social Stimulus went to South Limestone in August. The city had closed and begun rebuilding the street between downtown and the University of Kentucky campus — a project that continues — and merchants were complaining that their businesses had suffered.

Hensley booked the Sound Bar, hired Hanna's On Lime next door to provide food, and encouraged people to come
See EBLEN, B3

IF YOU GO

Debra's Social Stimulus

What: "Barrel of Fun" event.

When: 5-8 p.m. Feb. 5.

Where: Former Old Pepper Distillery barrel house, 1200 Manchester St.

Admission: Free.

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