

## Old friends, 200 years of marriage

LIFE & ARTS, D1



## JACKSON COVERAGE

More on his

death and

memorial

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# The Columbus Dispatch

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Fans relax on the grass next to the bleachers in left field. Some might even be paying attention to the game.

## It's all about the AMBIENCE

Huntington Park hits a home run with fans who concentrate  
on the game — and those who don't even know the score

By Zach Swartz

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

**T**he sun has just passed its peak, and the Clippers are leading early in a recent game. Shadows stretching across the left-field grass spell out the first four letters of "Huntington Park," cast by the massive sign on the roof behind home plate.

It is a beautiful mid-June afternoon for baseball in Columbus. And for the first time — and the best place to see it — and the place to be — is downtown.

Cooper Stadium? Where was that again? One sure thing is that it bordered a cemetery — quite a contrast to the collection of bars, restaurants and people-attracting spots that make up the Arena District and the Clippers' new home.

"It is a place to really hang out, and I know all these businesses around here are ecstatic to have another (33) games coming," said Jon Willette, a managing partner of Four Points Real Estate Development who brought a lunchtime business meeting to the park. "And this during the day? They need to have 30 of these."

The new minor-league base-



JONATHAN QUILTER | DISPATCH



LEONARDO CARRIZO | DISPATCH

TOP: Hartlee Johnston, 12, Nick Leonard, 14, center, and Bryan Peck, 11, play rummy at the park's right-field picnic tables. Groups, like theirs from a Westerville church, are frequently at the park and help it to lead the minor leagues in attendance.

LEFT: People file into Huntington Park past a statue of former Franklin County Commissioner Harold Cooper, who brought baseball back to Columbus with the Clippers in 1977.

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### OBAMA'S FOREIGN TRIP

## U.S., Russia agree to missile reduction

By Tom Lasseter

MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MOSCOW — Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev agreed yesterday to cut as many as a third of the nuclear warheads in their strategic arsenals, but they acknowledged that disagreements linger about a proposed U.S. missile-defense shield.

Obama and Medvedev stressed that the proposal marked a turn away from the post-Cold War lows of

the past few years.

In addition to the conversation about nuclear weapons, Russia said it would begin allowing the U.S. to ship arms for Afghanistan through the country. Russia and the U.S. also are resuming military-to-military cooperation, a process suspended after the Russia-Georgia war last summer.

Speaking to reporters during Obama's first trip to

## Retirement center now at standstill



NEAL C. LAURON | DISPATCH

Financial problems have brought an end to construction at the \$289 million Hickory Chase development in Hilliard, which was to include 1,500 residential units.

By Elizabeth Gibson

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Just weeks from being ready for its first tenants, the massive \$289 million Hickory Chase retirement center in Hilliard has gone into foreclosure. For now, the ducks in the ponds will be the only residents on the 80-acre property.

Hilliard's development director, David Meeks, said the project would have been "a cruise ship on land" — a self-contained community with 1,500 residential units, a hair salon, a cafeteria, a gym, medical services and more.

Now, the weeds are taking



over plateaus of dirt where independent- and assisted-living buildings were meant to go. The developer already has built a community center and 145 apartments on what was once farmland,

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