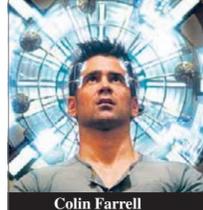




COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Big test
Wolverines need to answer questions before 'Bama
SPORTS PAGE C1



MOVIE REVIEW
'Total Recall'
Remake breaks no new ground
PEACH PAGE D1

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TOLEDO, OHIO FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012

UPDATES AT toledoBlade.com FINAL

Big day for U.S. Olympians



	G	S	B	Total
U.S.	18	9	10	37
China	18	11	5	34
Japan	2	6	11	19
Germany	4	8	5	17

■ Tyler Clary, Rebecca Soni win golds in swimming. **Page C1.**
■ U.S. women's rowing eight wins back-to-back golds. **Page C4.**

► U.S. gymnast Gabrielle Douglas acknowledges the audience after winning one of the United States' six gold medals Thursday. Douglas won the women's individual all-around gymnastics competition.



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◀ American swimmers Michael Phelps, right with a gold medal, and Ryan Lochte, with a silver, pose after competing in the men's 200-meter individual medley final.

► Ohio native Kayla Harrison beams with joy after winning the gold medal in the women's under 78-kg judo competition at the 2012 Olympics in London.



MISSION FALTERS

Annan gives up as Syrian peace envoy

Diplomat blames Assad, rebels, and U.N. council

BLADE NEWS SERVICES

GENEVA — Frustrated by the seemingly intractable Syrian conflict, Kofi Annan announced his resignation Thursday as the special peace envoy of the United Nations and the Arab League, throwing new doubts on whether a diplomatic solution is possible.

Mr. Annan also said President Bashar Assad of Syria "must leave office."

In an announcement tinged with bitterness and regret, Mr. Annan said he no longer could do the job, blaming his decision on what he described as Syrian government intransigence, increasing militancy by Syrian rebels, and the failure of a divided U.N. Security Council to rally forcefully behind his efforts.

"I accepted this task, which some called *Mission Impossible*, for I believed it was a sacred duty to do whatever was in my power to help the Syrian people find a peaceful solu-



Special peace envoy Kofi Annan called for Syria's Bashar Assad to leave office.

tion to this bloody conflict," Mr. Annan said at the U.N.'s Geneva offices.

But, he said, "without serious, purposeful, and united international pressure, including from the powers of the region, it is impossible for me, or anyone, to compel the Syrian government in the first place, and also the opposition, to take the steps necessary to begin a political process."

Mr. Annan also criticized what he called the disunity of world powers. "At a time when we need — when the Syrian people desperately need action — there continues to be finger-pointing and name-call-

See **SYRIA**, Page 4

INSIDE

Weather

Partly sunny and hot; a lake breeze offers cool air near the lake.
HI 92° LO 68°

Weather | Page B8

Candor questioned

Former Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority president James Hartung is fired from a Chicago college for not disclosing the circumstances of his departure from Toledo.

Second News | Page B1

Browns sale

Tennessee truck-stop magnate Jimmy Haslam III, a Steelers minority owner, reaches a deal to buy the Cleveland Browns.

Sports | Page C1

Bleak House

Barristers and baristas mingle at a Charles Dickens-themed coffee shop in the Spitzer Building.

Business | Page B6

Season premiere

NBC's *Go On* sitcom centered on support groups gets a sneak preview Wednesday.

Peach Plus | Page D3

Business.....B6	Obituaries.....B4
Classifieds.....C7	Opinion.....A6
Comics.....D4	Peach.....D1
Crossword.....C8	Peach Plus.....D3
Horoscope.....C9	Second News.....B1
Lottery.....A3	Sports.....C1
Matt Markey.....C3	Today's log.....B3

Homes | Inside



For today's deal of the day, please turn to Page 5.

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Rare cards from attic in Defiance fetch \$566,132

BLADE STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

DEFIANCE — The stash of rare baseball cards kept hidden in a northwest Ohio attic for more than a century began reaping its payoff Thursday night.

In a brisk online and live auction at the National Sports Collectors Convention in Baltimore, the best of a pristine collection filled with turn-of-the-century stars such as Honus Wagner and Cy Young fetched a combined \$566,132.

The sale of 37 cards was the



Karl Kissner says the discovery of rare baseball cards has brought his family together.

first step in setting free a collection experts say could represent the greatest single discovery in the sports card industry's history. The entire stash of more than 700 nearly mint cards is expected to bring

in about \$3 million, with the proceeds set to be split evenly among 20 cousins.

"It was a lot of fun," said Chris Ivy, director of sports auctions at Heritage Auctions, which conducted the sale. "The room was packed."

Family member Karla Hench, who helped find the cards, said the cards brought "fantastic prices and we're very excited that we can all share in this find. It's like a

See **CARDS**, Page 8



A 1910 Ty Cobb baseball card, left, and a 1910 Honus Wagner card were among 37 cards from a collection found in Defiance that were auctioned Thursday in Baltimore.

FARMERS' PLIGHT

Drought's havoc expands across one-fifth of U.S.

Ranchers warn herds in jeopardy

BLADE NEWS SERVICES

LINCOLN, Neb. — The drought has intensified in the nation's most parched areas, with more than a fifth of the contiguous United States experiencing "extreme" or "exceptional" drought, according to numbers released Thursday by the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Just three weeks ago, the portion of the lower 48 states receiving those two most serious drought designations stood at 11.6 percent. That area has doubled to 22.3 percent. The jump in the last week from 20.6 percent represents an increase of about 32 million acres.

The geographical expanse of the drought has shrunk slightly, but it remains historically high, with more than three-fifths of the lower 48 battling moderate drought or worse. That's an area that

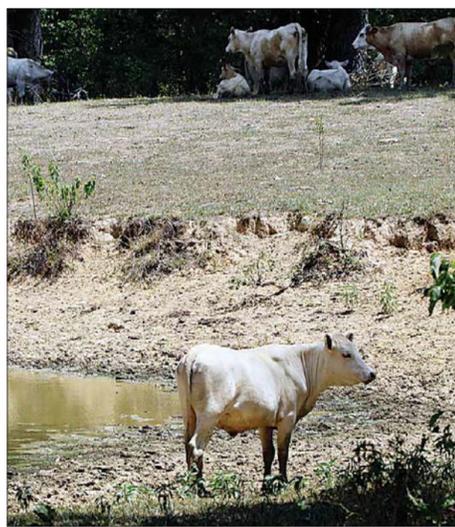
comes close to matching the sprawling drought of 1934 at the worst of the Dust Bowl era.

The statistics show the areas that need rain the most aren't getting it and there is little moisture on the horizon as the country sizzles through the hottest year on record.

The Big Drought of 2012 has been tough on farmers, but it has been even more brutal on ranchers.

Most crop farmers have insurance to cushion the blow of a bad harvest — and the rise in prices is a windfall for those with something to harvest and sell. But the ranchers have hungry cows and a quandary. As grass on rangelands dies across the country, prices for corn and hay for animal feed are soaring.

Ranchers contend they don't have the safety nets their colleagues in the crop



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cattle seek shade from 100-degree temperatures near a partially dried-up pond in Aplin, Ark., this week. More than a fifth of the United States is fighting drought.

sector depend on during hard times.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture had a "livestock indemnity program" that compensated for livestock deaths because of disaster, but that program expired in September.

Economist James Robb of the Livestock Marketing Information Center describes a

dismaying scenario for ranchers raising beef cattle in a year without rain. Normally, a rancher can turn a profit of about \$180 per cow after factoring in the upfront costs of operations and renting land. This year, that's going to be more like \$80 a cow.

"With 30 million head of

See **DROUGHT**, Page 3

FEDERAL REPORT

Cigarette sales getting snuffed by pipe tobacco

Users turn to other forms of smoking

NEW YORK TIMES

ATLANTA — Fewer Americans are smoking cigarettes, but a growing number are turning to cigarette-like cigars that can sell for as little as 7 cents apiece or to cigarettes that users can make themselves out of inexpensive loose tobacco labeled for pipe use, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

Sales of these other forms of tobacco — which are taxed at significantly lower rates than cigarettes and tobacco specifically labeled "roll your own" — have soared in recent years, the CDC said.

The amount of loose pipe tobacco sold in 2011 was enough to make 17.5 billion cigarettes, a sixfold increase

See **TOBACCO**, Page 8