What is this cliff we're heading for?

Talking points
1. Politicians and newspapers have warned for months about a 'fiscal cliff.' What is the fiscal cliff? What could happen if we go over the cliff?
2. What political decisions created this end-of-year crisis?
3. What issues are separating Democrats and Republicans on dealing with the problem?
4. Why is it so difficult for the parties to compromise?

Between the lines
"I'm not wedded to every detail of my plan. I'm open to compromise," President Barack Obama.
"I don't want to box myself in. I don't want to box anybody else in," House Speaker John Boehner.

Additional resources
More by Michael Ramirez
http://www.cagle.com/author/michael-ramirez/
More by Milt Priggee
http://www.cagle.com/author/milt-priggee/
Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
http://editorialcartoonists.com/