SECTION B USA TODAY —



IN MONEY





MARC ROYCE FOR USA TODAY



Mary Zinser scrapes ice off her windshield, in Arnold, Mo. Parts of the state were glazed in more than a quarter-inch of ice.

NEWSLINE

IN NEWS

A VP with clout?

Mike Pence could wield great power, but much depends on his mercurial boss.

USA TODAY

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Deadly ice storm keeps tight grip on nation's midsection

Freezing rain eyes swath from Texas Panhandle to Plains

Doug Stanglin

@dstanglin USA TODAY

With Kansas and Missouri in the bull's-eye, a winter storm descended on the nation's midsection Saturday, bringing thick ice, dangerous driving conditions and power outages as it stretched its tentacles as far east as the Mid-Atlantic.

There was little chance of a letup from the icy onslaught as another round of freezing rain was forecast for Sunday morning, keeping ice warnings in place for the two states, as well as Oklahoma.

Winter storm watches forecast up to three-quarters of an inch of ice and as much as 3 inches of snow across the central Plains and parts of Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska.

The National Weather Service said freezing rain would continue across a wide swath of north-central Oklahoma, potentially bringing an addi-

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B



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BEIJING BLASTS TRUMP REMARK

President-elect: Jury's out on Russia, China

Doug Stanglin and David Jackson USA TODAY

President-elect Donald Trump, in a fresh peek at his foreign policy views, says he is open to lifting sanctions against Russia and is not committed to a long-standing agreement with China over Taiwan. Beijing swiftly responded to the latter remark, calling any revision of the China" "One policy "non-negotiable."



Trump indicates he's open to lifting Russian sanctions.

Trump lashes out at Rep. Lewis Congressman said the

president-elect is not "legitimate" U.S. leader, 2B

Trump's remarks came in an hour-long interview with The Wall Street Journal on Friday in which he said he will keep the sanctions on Russia in place "for a period of time" but is open to lifting them if Moscow cooperates on issues of mutual interest.

While several sanctions on Russia were imposed in 2014 over its annexation of Crimea, the latest measures, as well as the expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats, were imposed by the Obama administration last month in response to evidence Russia hacked Democratic Party officials during the presidential election.

Trump's comments come days after CNN's report regarding classified documents presented to Obama and

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

Cuban Americans at odds over 'wet foot, dry foot' repeal

Even beneficiaries have mixed feelings

Alan Gomez @alangomez

USA TODAY

MIAMI President Obama's surprise decision to end the "wet foot, dry foot" policy that has allowed tens of thousands of Cubans to enter the U.S. has roiled the Cuban-American community, leaving even those who benefited directly with mixed emotions.

The policy first was enacted by

President Clinton in 1995 to stop a growing wave of Cuban rafters flooding into South Florida. Under the new directive, Cubans who reached U.S. soil would be allowed to stay in the country and become legal permanent residents after one year. Those caught at sea were returned to

Alberto Vilches was paddling north with five friends through the Florida Straits on a boat they made out of Styrofoam when, unknown to them, Clinton made his announcement.

On Friday, Vilches finally completed his long journey, swearing his oath of allegiance to become a

U.S. citizen due to the preferential treatment afforded Cubans.

Even though he benefited from "wet foot, dry foot," the Havana native said its time had passed. He said when he arrived, Cubans were fleeing political persecution and the horrors inflicted by the communist Cuban regime. But now, he said Cubans are taking advantage of the program and coming only for economic gains.

'So many people who have come in these last few years come for different reasons," said Vilches, 68, a retired factory worker. "They come with a different mentality now."

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and



to become a U.S. citizen.

Alberto Vilches, foreground, takes the oath of allegiance

tried to change Cuban immigration for years. They say many newcomers are economic migrants who return to Cuba as soon as they receive their green cards in the U.S. On Thursday, both members of Congress agreed changes were needed. "Although our country's immi-

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., have

gration policy toward Cuba has granted many of the dictatorship's victims refuge, it has also been grossly abused and exploited by many Cuban nationals, while also inadvertently bolstering the Cuban regime," Curbelo said. "A change to the policy was inevitable."