



Trump-Putin bromance flowered, soured

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THE COURIER

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Are ‘Duck Dynasty’ stars still alive?



Al and Kay Robertson, two of the stars of A&E's 'Duck Dynasty,' attend the Louisiana Tech University graduation ceremony to accept the Tower Medallion Award and Hall of Distinguished Alumni Induction on behalf of Phil Robertson.

MARGARET CROFT/THE NEWS-STAR

‘Don’t believe everything you see on the internet,’ Robertson family says

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

“Duck Dynasty” matriarch Miss Kay Robertson and Uncle Si Robertson said reports of their deaths have been greatly exaggerated during an appearance on the Duck Call Room podcast. “She lives!” Kay’s oldest son Alan Robertson said to begin the July 8 episode. “Thank goodness,” said Kay Robertson, 77, who has suffered serious health issues during the past year and con-

tinues to grieve husband Phil Robertson’s May 25 death after suffering from Alzheimer’s. “There’s been more fake AI internet deaths for mom since dad crossed over,” Al Robertson said. “Don’t believe everything you see on the internet. Tales of your demise have been greatly exaggerated.” Al also said Uncle Si has been the victim of death rumors. “You’ve been killed many times,” Alan said of Uncle Si. “This is a proof of life video,” Alan said. “It seems like there’s a conspiracy to

get us to leave this earth early,” Uncle Si said. “I’ve died so many times.” Al and Miss Kay said her health has stabilized after spending an extended period of time in the hospital following a fall. “You ought to try to sign autographs in the hospital,” Miss Kay said. “Really fun.” Alan said his mother has moved in with Alan’s daughter Anna and her husband, Jay. “Mom, you’re probably healthier than you’ve been in a year, don’t you think?” said Alan, who said his mom has lost weight and continues to receive physical therapy. “Well, yeah, especially those

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LOUISIANA’S ECONOMY

Not yet a recession, analysts say

Wesley Muller
Louisiana Illuminator

Performance indicators released Friday show Louisiana’s economy shrank by 1.7% over the first few months of 2025 and is moving in what one expert called a “sideways” direction marked by sluggish growth and contractions at both the state and national levels. However, it’s not yet in recession territory, analysts say. New first-quarter data that became available last week showed the U.S. economy slowed further than analysts had initially thought. U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), which measures the total value of the goods and services produced, shrunk for the first time since 2022 and Louisiana posted the worst GDP rate in the Southeast region. With a shrinkage of -1.7% GDP for the first quarter, Louisiana dropped in the state rankings from 15th to 38th, according to a U.S. Department of Commerce report released Friday. The sectors performing the worst included minerals extraction (mining, quarrying and oil and gas drilling), construction and finance and insurance. Louisiana economist Loren Scott said there is broad consensus that President Donald Trump’s tariffs are a big cause of the economic contraction. Trump’s tariff threats prompted American businesses to stock up on products, causing a surge of foreign imports into the U.S. that far exceeded the production of American-made goods and services, Scott said. Still, Scott is expecting GDP growth to improve for the second quarter at both the national and state levels. Those figures are set to be released at the end of July. “The second quarter is gonna be totally reversed,” he said, though he hedged his forecast with a caveat. “If the tariffs stay in place, you’re going to see the economy slow down and inflation creep back up.” David Dismukes, an economist with Acadian Consulting Group in Baton Rouge, was less optimistic, pointing to signs of inflation already

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LA city named second best travel destination in U.S.

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each year, Travel + Leisure conducts a “World’s Best Awards” survey, asking readers to vote and share opinions on the best travel experiences around the globe. One of the awards consisted of the best U.S. cities for travel destinations in 2025, and one Louisiana city came in second. For the best travel destinations in the U.S., readers prioritized cities with pedestrian-friendly streets, dynamic arts and culture institutions, a sense of history and architectural identity, as well as an excellent food scene.

Travel to New Orleans: Travel + Leisure

New Orleans, Louisiana was named the second best city on Travel + Leisure’s list of the best travel destinations in the U.S. for 2025 voted on by readers. New Orleans is known for many things, however, Travel + Leisure readers cited the city’s food scene as the reason for voting the city as one of the best travel destinations in the U.S. The city of New Orleans is renowned for its unique blend of Cajun and Creole cuisine. Creole cuisine is a fusion of French, Spanish, West African and Native American influences, which led to the creation of dishes such as gumbo,

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MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

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