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Honorable storytelling

Telling the story of Black Revolutionary War reenactors

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It’s a part of our Revolutionary history that few Americans know. ● Two hundred fifty years ago, hundreds of enslaved Black men and women joined the fight on either side of the war, as the British and Colonial armies opened their ranks in exchange for promises of freedom. ● In New Jersey, their memory has been kept alive by the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, which says it is the nation’s only Black Revolutionary War reenactors unit. See REENACTORS, Page 7A

Kevin Chapman checks his 1762 Short Land Pattern “Brown Bess” musket at a Loyalist and British encampment at East Jersey Old-Town-Village in Piscataway on April 11. MICHAEL KARAS/NORTHJERSEY.COM • • •

Admire Norman Rockwell’s ‘Yankee Doodle’ at New Jersey bar

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Yankee Doodle went to town, says the song. But he came from *where*? No verse tells us where the guy who rode the pony, with a feather in his cap, lived. But we can. And in honor of the 250th birthday of the United States — we will. Ready? Yankee Doodle’s address is 10 Palmer Square East, Princeton. That’s been his hang — literally — since 1937, when the iconic American painter Norman Rockwell created his original 13-foot “Yankee Doodle” mural for the tap room of Princeton’s Nassau Inn. “People will come by specifically for it and to sit by it and have a drink next to history,” said Elizabeth Egan, director of marketing for the Nassau Inn. In a town chock-full of historic sites, from a famous battlefield to the grave of Aaron Burr to the colonial college that became Princeton University, the 89-year-old Rockwell mural may well be the town’s biggest Revolutionary War attraction. “People are genuinely curious,” Egan said. “We’ll strike up conversations with them, tell them how

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Outside of the Nassau Inn PROVIDED BY NASSAU INN

In a town chock-full of historic sites, from a famous battlefield to the grave of Aaron Burr to the colonial college that became Princeton University, the 89-year-old Rockwell mural may well be the town’s biggest Revolutionary War attraction.



The Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in 1996 shows the spent fuel storage area. NORTHJERSEY.COM STAFF FILE

Nuclear plants would cover only half of power gap

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New Jersey is betting on nuclear power to help meet growing electricity demand. But even if every reactor envisioned under a new state law is built, it would cover only about half of the state’s current power shortfall. Gov. Mikie Sherrill’s Power NJ Act, signed on July 13, sets a target of at least 1,100 megawatts of new nuclear generation, roughly the output of a large reactor. But even if the full amount is approved and built, it would generate enough electricity to offset only about 52% to 55% of the state’s current power shortfall, based on a NorthJersey.com analysis of state data. The analysis provides one of the first measures of how far the state’s headline nuclear goal would go toward solving a problem Sherrill has made central to her energy agenda: New Jersey produces far less electricity than it uses. Even under the law’s most optimistic scenario, the state would have to import nearly half of the power needed to close that gap. The law starts a competitive process for developers but does not guarantee that the full number will be approved or built.

If it were, the new reactors could generate between 8.7 million and 9.2 million megawatt-hours per year at the operating rates cited by the Sherrill administration. New Jersey’s latest in-state generation gap was nearly twice that size. A Department of Environmental Protection analysis updated in July put the gap at nearly 16.8 million megawatt-hours, equal to about 23% of retail electricity sales. A NorthJersey.com analysis of the DEP figures found that the full nuclear target would cover about 52% to 55% of that amount.

The state analysis uses 2024, the latest year available. The U.S. Energy Information Administration, or EIA, said New Jersey power plants generated about 60.2 million megawatt-hours and electricity providers sold 73.5 million megawatt-hours to customers. Estimated transmission and distribution losses added to the difference. The gap widened from about 14% in 2023 and was the state’s largest percentage deficit since 2010. The July update added the 2024 figure.

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