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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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‘Brattleboro Goes Fourth’ with bands, trucks, and protest

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Photos by Randolph T. Holhut

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TEXT BODY:

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For America’s 250th birthday, Brattleboro’s annual Fourth of July parade was its customary mashup of community pride, lots of trucks, and political protest.

Owing to the hot and humid morning, the Brattleboro American Legion Band rode down Main Street, and the Brattleboro Union High School band opted for shorts and t-shirts rather than their uniforms.

11 There weren't as many firetrucks from neighboring fire
12 departments this year, but Brattleboro Public Works had most of
13 its equipment in the parade, including its new compost collection
14 truck.

15 The biggest contingent was a show of support for
16 Brattleboro Memorial Hospital's Birthing Center, with about 200
17 hospital workers and their allies expressing their displeasure over
18 a plan announced on July 1 to close it down.

19 To honor the original "No Kings Day" on July 4, 1776,
20 Brattleboro Indivisible sent out The Good Trouble Street Choir,
21 joined by the "Signs of Fascism" marchers.

22 A pro-Palestine contingent with flags and Bread and
23 Puppet Theater-inspired creations of mothers dressed in black
24 grieving their dead children were not far behind.

25 A 14-foot papier-mâché replica of the Statue of Liberty,
26 in honor of Richard Morris Hunt, a Brattleboro architect who
27 designed the statue's pedestal, was the centerpiece of the parade.

28 As he has for years, Alfred Hughes Jr. brought up the rear
29 of the parade as he celebrated July 4 in a golden gown accented
30 with monarch butterflies.

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