



## Watch for these players to break out

SPORTS, 1B

# Burlington Free Press

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## PopUp Bagels chain to open first VT location



The future location of PopUp Bagels, which previously housed Black Cap Coffee and Bakery on the Church Street Marketplace in Burlington, shown on May 5. BRENT HALLENBECK/BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

**Brent Hallenbeck**  
Burlington Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A New England chain known for its “grip, rip and dip” style for eating bagels is showing signs — literally — of opening its first Vermont shop.

PopUp Bagels, founded during the COVID-19 pandemic by Adam Goldberg in Westport, Connecticut, will move into the former Black Cap Coffee & Bakery spot at 42 Church St. in Burlington. Prior to Black Cap, the location housed an-

other coffee shop, Uncommon Grounds, for 25 years.

Signs touting PopUp Bagels’ impending arrival popped up in the Church Street Marketplace storefront May 4. Brandon Henry, who’s overseeing the start-up of the shop for the company, would not discuss a timeline for opening the business.

“Too early to say. There’s a lot of moving pieces that go into it from design to construction,” he said.

PopUp Bagels is likely to employ 15-20 full- and part-time workers, accord-

ing to Henry, who said hiring usually starts within four months of opening. That process has not begun for Burlington.

“It’s just a little too soon to start looking,” he said.

### Chain comes to rare city with no McDonald’s, Starbucks

Henry said Goldberg picked up bread baking as a hobby during the

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## Republican challenging U.S. rep: ‘Somebody had to’

**Megan Stewart**  
Burlington Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Some people might wonder why a Republican would bother to run for federal office in Vermont, the bluest state in the country. But to Mark Coester, “Somebody had to do it.”

Coester, a Westminster small business owner, is so far the only Republican vying for Vermont’s coveted congressional seat, currently occupied by U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, a Democrat.

Should Coester win his party’s primary in August, he will almost certainly face Balint, who announced her re-election campaign last Thursday, in the November general election.

It would be a rematch of two years ago, when Coester challenged Balint and lost 29.8% to 62.3% to the then-first term House rep.

What could be seen as an easy defeat, Coester sees as evidence of “momentum,” he told the Burlington Free Press. He pointed out that he received more votes in Vermont’s 2024 general election than any Republican candidate for the seat since 2006, which is true.

**Coester**

“I did well, and I was mostly self-financed,” Coester said.

His decade-high turnout felt even more vindicating because, he said, the Vermont GOP hardly helped his campaign.

“It does irk the Republican Party that I did well without their help,” Coester said. “I did it on my own.”

Vermont GOP Chair Paul Dame did not answer a request for comment.

Coester said he anticipates a similar cold shoulder this campaign cycle as well.

“What I sensed back in January or February last year was that they were already looking for a different rabbit,” Coester said.

He isn’t sure if the party has found that rabbit yet, but he told the Free Press he’s heard “mumblings” that Gerald Malloy, the Republican who challenged independent Sen. Bernie Sanders two years ago and Democrat Sen. Peter Welch four years ago, might join the race.

Malloy’s recent social media posts suggest he might be weighing a run for Balint’s seat.

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## Supreme Court backs AL on new voting map

**Maureen Groppe**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court handed Alabama Republicans a major win in their effort to pursue a more favorable congressional map for the midterm elections, the latest boost for the GOP’s chances of keeping control of the House of Representatives.

Over the dissent of the court’s three liberal justices, the court lifted a ruling that had blocked state Republicans’ preferred map as racially discriminatory and for illegally diluting the voting power of Black Alabamians.

Derrick Johnson, national president of the NAACP, said the nation is returning to the “Jim Crow” era of racial discrimination.

“And anybody who is alarmed by these developments — as everybody should be — better be making a plan to vote in November to put an end to this madness while we still can,” Johnson said in a statement after the decision.

Alabama argued that the court’s recent decision weakening Voting Rights

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