

What to know about this year's apple crop

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ARCADIA SCHOOLS | FORWARD EXAM

High scores led to investigation

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Suspiciously high English growth scores led state administrators to invalidate exam scores recorded by Arcadia Middle School during the 2025-26 school year.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction began an investigation Aug. 7 after vendor Education Analytics reported a “very high value-added growth” score for the middle school’s seventh grade in English Language Arts.

The department provided a letter to the Daily News on Thursday that was originally sent Sept. 9 to Arcadia School District Superintendent Lori Frerk.

Arcadia students’ performance over time on the statewide, annual Forward Exam was reviewed by the department’s Office of Educational Accountability.

“OEA noted that 7th grade ELA data showed unusually large gains in the number of students at the Meeting and Advanced levels, in comparison to prior

6th grade performance for Arcadia Middle School,” the letter states. “This level of improvement was not maintained when students transitioned to 8th grade. In addition, 7th grade ELA mean scale scores were higher than 8th grade scores at the School.”

Data tracking students who changed their answers during the Forward Exam was also reviewed as part of the investigation.

“7th grade ELA test data from the School

showed very high mean wrong-to-right answer changes,” the letter states.

Investigators spoke to the district’s assessment coordinator, who interviewed students and staff.

The department determined standardized test administration procedures were not followed for the seventh grade’s English Language Arts test. The English Language Arts test results will be removed

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KWIK TRIP FOODIES



PETER THOMSON, LA CROSSE TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Kwik Trip employee Connie Bailey restocks the hot sandwiches in 2009 at a remodeled store at Cass Street and Fifth Avenue in La Crosse.

Gas station chain changes Midwestern eating habits

RACHEL HUTTON
Star Tribune

Kwik Trip is in the business of selling gasoline, about as dull a commodity as they come. Yet the La Crosse-based chain has turned the banal task of refueling into the driver’s equivalent of must-see TV.

Kwik Trip has earned the title of Country’s Best Gas Station Brand seven years running, and cultivated an unlikely cult following in the process.

Road-warriors pilgrimage to Kwik Trip’s 900-plus locations in the Upper Midwest, with many more coming to Minnesota. Couples take bridal and prom photos in store aisles. And students send graduation-party invitations to company headquarters.

Musicians have been moved to compose a dance rap tune and a country ditty, “God Bless Kwik Trip,” in its honor. There are even Kwik Trip Missed Connections: personal ads for romantics who felt a spark at a station but failed to get a phone number. Some fervent fans refuse to buy gas anywhere

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JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Kwik Trip employee Logan Ernzen delivers change to a cash-paying customer while working at the company’s store on Wildcat Way in Verona on Friday. The chain has more than 900 stores in the Midwest.

Quick tips for your next Kwik Trip visit

NICOLE HVIDSTEN AND RACHEL HUTTON
Star Tribune

The appeal of Kwik Trip depends on why you’re stopping.

It can be a convenient place to refuel both your vehicle and cravings, or provide cheap meals on the go. It can also be an oasis in a food desert, stocking everything from bananas to meatloaf, and a manageable shopping experience for those weary of super-sized supermarkets; there are even carts.

The Wisconsin-based chain evolves its food offerings as times and consumer preferences change. Kwik Trip was ahead of the curve when it introduced hot racks, now a primary driver of grab-and-go sales, and it recently announced that its roller grills will be phased out by late September. (Don’t worry, hot dog and tornadoes will migrate to the Hot Spot racks.)

From store brands to shopping hacks, here are 10 reasons to fuel up at Kwik Trip.

No one wants to download another app, but doing so allows you to save money *and* order lunch. We’re fans of controlling our destiny, so ordering via the Kwik Trip Rewards app assures that our sandwich (or pizza or breakfast) will be ready how and when we want it. It can be invaluable when on a Midwestern road trip, saving time and avoiding decision fatigue, all while earning rewards for discounts.

Not all Kwik Trips carry the same foods. What might be available in the Kwik Trip closest to you might not be in the grab-and-go case the next town over — another reason the app is helpful. And some favorite foods (we’re talking to you, soft pretzel) are discontinued without warning.

Kwik Trip produces more than 80% of its branded food, dairy, bakery and

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NICOLE HVIDSTEN, STAR TRIBUNE

Kwik Trip goes all in on its store brands, which include Urge! chips and snacks, Nature’s Touch dairy products and Wwikery prepared foods.

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