



**Fireworks** | a cryptic puzzle by Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon

When a word in the grid crosses a shaded square, it may deposit one, two, or three letters in that square—in addition to the letters deposited by the intersecting word. As many as four letters may occupy a shaded square; and in every case those letters can be scrambled into a word. So in all, the finished grid will have 11 words in shaded squares, and these will display our pyrotechnics. Hope they're not dud!

**Across**

- 4 Hack a directory for conspirator (8)
- 10 Fifty equals a number having flexibility (7)
- 11 Musician is in love with droid (6)
- 12 Leaped after the leader made the calls (5)
- 13 Spool of yarn mostly going up and down (6)
- 14 Mastermind in Greene novel (8)
- 15 Republican club outside a capital in North Africa (5)

- 16 Many a standard situation at a fully booked inn? (5)
- 17 House left empty by mid-October (3)
- 19 Crackpot toiling over a carving (8)
- 22 Gang holding a Biblical kingdom (4)
- 24 Young socialite took in campaign event (6)
- 25 A bakery choice pronounced wrong (4)
- 26 Part Fitzgerald intended for audiences (7)
- 28 Trial alternative: settlement (6)
- 29 Crowd circling Oregon swamp (6)
- 30 Measure all but the stern of Columbian boat (4)
- 31 Two companies performing a Ron Howard movie (6)
- 32 In no hurry taking eggs back? (8)

**Down**

- 1 Smooth kind of shot by tonsillitis doc (6)
- 2 Some biscuits I'm baking for an animated cat (5)
- 3 Snake I call ambitious (8)
- 5 Homes for a bard's first poetry (6)
- 6 Morning test lacking ethics (6)
- 7 One supporter behind large sign (5)
- 8 Cocktail time embraced by lounge performer (7)
- 9 High fashion, in the opinion of a Wild West sidekick (5)
- 13 Live dance maintaining an unsafe pitch (8)
- 17 Enron log tampered with part in aircraft construction (8)
- 18 Line that's painful in figure of speech (7)
- 20 Three hemming at mutual pact (6)
- 21 Consider again about skinny kid's face (7)
- 22 Charted the comeback of actor Johnny America (6)
- 23 Wild animal urge breaks up laughter (5)
- 24 GOP foe backing no evil person (5)
- 27 Kinky item to download in New York (5)

**Note:** The acrostic that would normally appear this week will run in two weeks so that we can bring you this timely cryptic.

► **Get the solution** to this week's Journal Saturday Puzzle in next Saturday's Wall Street Journal. Get pointers on solving clues and discuss this puzzle online at [WSJ.com/Puzzles](http://WSJ.com/Puzzles).