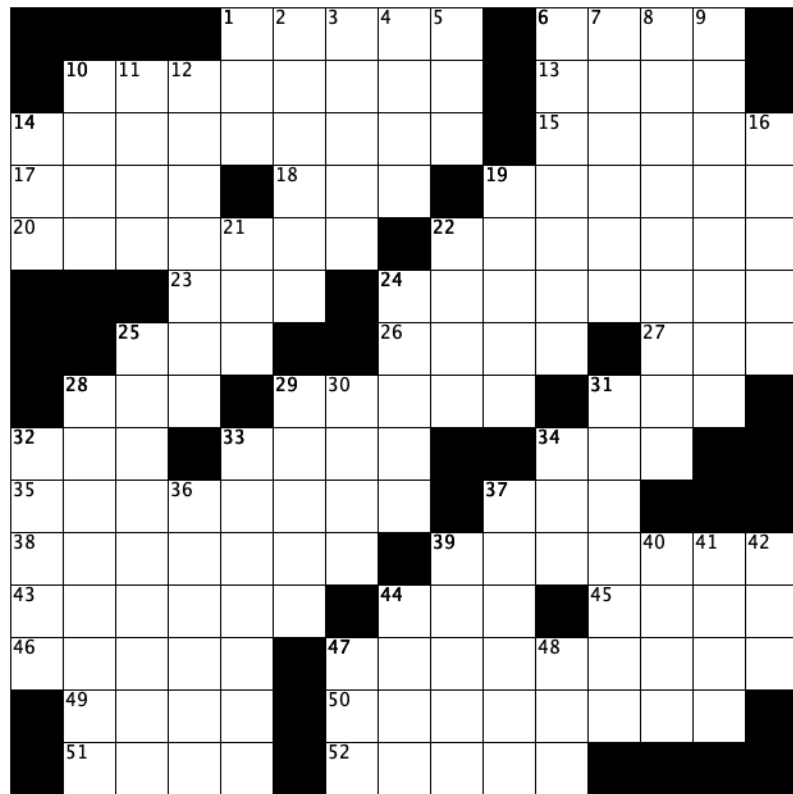


First and Foremost

Mark Morin

ACROSS

1. Grasslike wetland plant
6. Heart graphs
10. Like fresh oysters, sashimi or lettuce, often (2 wds.)
13. Clarified butter, word from Sanskrit
14. * Goal, desired outcome
15. "California ___" (Beach Boys song)
17. Algeria's second-largest city
18. Night before
19. * Timeless philosophical question: The meaning ___ (2 wds.)
20. No doubt about it
22. Leaf-shaped... or to produce leaves
23. Start of sentence
24. * Member of the clergy, or of the Cabinet
25. * "Das Boot" setting, for short
26. Once around the track (2 wds.)



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27. Internet news or blog syndication feed that's literally "Really Simple" (abbr.)
28. Urchin, but not the sea type
29. "Tall dark and handsome", "petite and shy", "exotic and mysterious", e.g.
31. "Scram!" in westerns, or nitwit to a Brit
32. Obamacare's official initials (abbr.)
33. Not fake
34. Bugs' "What's up" follower
35. * French mathematician Marin ___, known for his work on certain numbers, but not a soldier for hire
37. * Body part from which Eve is said to have been created
38. Do something about a piece of intel or advice (2 wds.)
39. Former U.S. President Ford and author Haslam ("Okies", "Grace Period", etc.)
43. * Age is just a ___
44. "Lard ___ Donuts" shop that serves D'oh-Nut Sundaes on the Simpsons

45. * "If you got the money honey, I got the ___"
46. South American constrictor that becomes the 44th U.S. president by swapping its first two vowels
47. * Instruction or edict
49. What the proverbial three wise monkeys cannot see, hear and speak
50. George W. Bush quote: "___ the question asked: Is our children learning" (2 wds.)
51. "The sun never ___ on the British Empire"
52. Word used with each answer to a starred clue (also see the puzzle title)

DOWN

1. #2, so not quite 52-Across (abbr.)
2. Walks in
3. Golf shot off the tee, usually
4. ___ a hoot (cared)
5. Sheepdog's job: enforce No ___ Turns
6. Maneuver not required for sunny-side-up (2 wds.)

7. Dragon's breath, Carolina reaper and Ghost pepper, e.g.
8. Relating to old age, medically
9. Automatic routine run by a high-tech device upon start-up (2 wds.)
10. The longest river entirely within Spain, not slang for an online buddy
11. Punch line for the riddle: "When is a door not a door?": "When it's ___"
12. Tighten one's muscles (2 wds.)
14. Sound of a punch in the gut
16. Clairvoyants
19. Charlie Chaplin's wife (née O'Neill) and his granddaughter, who played Talisa Maegyr on "Game of Thrones"
21. Common computer port (abbr.)
22. Line up in single ___
24. Leaf on the Canadian flag
25. Wise course of action (2 wds.)
28. Rocks, in a sense (2 wds.)
29. Luciano Pavarotti, vocally

30. Canadian novelist ___ Martel who wrote "Life of Pi"
31. Completely lose it, like a flying mammal (2 wds.)
32. Home appliance brand named for the town of Middle ___, Iowa where it was founded in 1934
33. Rescinds, as a law
34. N, S, E or W, e.g. (abbr.)
36. Hand in, as the homework the dog didn't eat
37. Cash in, as a coupon
39. Cassava root flower that sounds like a man's name
40. 53 AD (which happens to be 52-Across), when Claudius adopted Nero
41. Auto license Issuers (abbr.)
42. Match a poker bet, as in "I'll ___ your sock and raise you a shirt"
44. Pants-on-fire type of person
47. Disaster Recovery Plan (abbr.), not an acronym because that would sound stupid in slang
48. Ohio city on Lake Erie, home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (abbr.)