THE HUNDUN SOLUTION – PINTER

The first solve of the grid is shown at top below, with the missing initials restored to Patches clues at right. In order, the restored letters spell READ CENTER BLOCK. Looking at the 4 x 4 letter block in the middle of the grid gives the message TRADE LIKE PATCHES. Note that there are five pairs of identically-shaped patches in the grid. If those trade places, a new message is formed in the center 4 x 4 block: THE ANSWER'S PINTER.

Top grid:

E	T	R	U	S	C	A	N	O	V	E	R	D	O
N	E	A	T	P	I	T	O	N	A	S	I	A	N
D	W	E	L	L	F	O	N	D	U	L	T	R	A
E	A	R	L	A	P	P	E	S	O	S	U	I	T
S	H	I	N	G	L	E	R	O	N	E	D	G	E
A	M	I	S	S	T	R	A	D	B	R	A	N	D
M	E	N	U	D	E	L	I	K	E	E	P	E	R
E	L	A	P	S	E	P	A	T	S	S	E	E	N
M	O	T	T	S	C	H	E	S	T	H	E	E	D
R	Y	E	S	A	N	T	I	P	O	S	I	T	S
S	P	I	T	P	I	C	K	A	X	T	H	A	W
T	E	R	I	P	I	N	E	S	E	N	S	U	E
F	U	R	Y	I	R	E	D	P	E	R	U	S	E
L	E	A	R	N	E	R	C	H	E	S	N	E	Y

Bottom grid:

E	R	O	U	S	C	A	N	O	V	E	S	D	O
N	A	D	B	P	I	T	O	N	A	S	P	O	N
D	I	K	E	L	F	O	N	D	U	K	A	R	A
E	A	R	S	T	H	E	E	S	N	E	U	I	T
S	H	I	N	G	S	I	T	R	N	E	D	G	E
A	M	I	S	X	T	H	E	A	T	R	A	N	D
M	E	N	S	E	N	S	W	E	L	E	P	E	E
E	L	A	P	E	R	S	P	I	L	S	T	S	C
M	O	T	E	E	N	T	E	R	A	P	P	A	N
R	Y	E	S	E	D	F	U	I	A	L	E	T	S
P	A	T	T	P	I	L	L	T	S	T	R	A	W
H	E	R	I	P	I	O	S	U	D	E	L	U	E
T	I	R	Y	I	R	E	D	P	S	R	U	S	E
C	E	A	R	N	E	R	C	H	E	S	N	E	Y

PATCHES

Clue	Answer
Bavarian treats (2 wds)	APPLE STRUDELS
Current [R]age	LATEST
Nine-day devotions	NOVENAS
Spurring [E]motion, maybe	PATHETIC
Give [A]way	DONATE
Melted cheese dishes	FONDUES
Kubo's two-stringed instrument	SHAMISEN
Number [D]one by a cat	MEMORY
[C]leaned out	RUINED
Gonzaga site	SPOKANE
[E]vent in a diagnostic lab (2 wds; abbr)	PET SCAN
Cycles meant for touring (2 wds)	ROAD BIKES
[N]ice	ENDEARING
[T]odd onstage	SWEENEY
Take good care of (2 wds)	TREAT WELL
Signaled "[E]go", in a way	PREENED
[R]ash-colored fish (2 wds.)	RED PERCH
Some folks born in May	TAURUSES
Districts named for an Italian [B]ridge	RIALTOS
Pepper used to make a hot sauce (2 wds)	PIRI-PIRI
[L]oath to be benevolent	SPITEFUL
Shyamalan nearly got [O]scars from this (3 wds)	THE SIXTH SENSE
Building shown on the $50 bill (2 wds; abbr)	US CAPITOL
[C]rave, with "for"	YEARN
[K]nights and the like	GRANDEES