

AFR Cryptic (Easter 2025) Solution

¹ S	T	² R	E	³ T	C	⁴ H	Y		⁵ B	⁶ I	A	⁷ S	E	⁸ D	
A		A		O		O		⁹ C		T		E		A	
¹⁰ F	E	D	E	R	A	L	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	
E		I		R		I		O		H		Z		G	
¹¹ L	O	A	D	E	D	I	C	E		¹² H	E	A	L		
Y		T		N		A		H		¹³ M				I	
	¹⁴ W	I	N	T	R	Y		¹⁵ E	D	I	¹⁶ T	I	O	N	
¹⁷ E		O		I						S		N		G	
¹⁸ M	A	N	D	A	T	¹⁹ E		²⁰ S	O	F	T	I	E		
P				L		L		E		O		T		²¹ P	
²² H	A	²³ L	L		²⁴ C	O	M	M	E	R	C	I	A	L	
A		I		²⁵ K		P		I		T		A		A	
²⁶ S	U	N	R	I	S	E	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	Y	
E		E		T		D		A		N		O		U	
²⁷ S	O	R	T	E	R			²⁸ F	R	E	E	D	R	O	P

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 STRETCHY	Vomit found in filthy place is rubbery (8)	RETCH in STY
5 BIASED	Partisan, one for instance, engaged by foundation (6)	(I + AS) inside BED
10 FEDERAL ELECTION	National decision strengthened porter, say, left in building (7,8)	FED + [(ALE + L) inside ERECTION]
11 LOADED DICE	Gambler's friends, odd, deal shuffled diamonds (6,4)	Anagram of ODD DEAL + ICE
12 HEAL	Outspoken person who's not nice to treat (4)	Sounds like HEEL
14 WINTRY	Icy land sample (6)	WIN + TRY
15 EDITION	Complicated diet, one dealing with issue (7)	Anagram of DIET + I + ON
18 MANDATE	Staff meeting's official instruction (7)	MAN + DATE
20 SOFTIE	Hacked site of person who is weak and excessively sentimental (6)	Anagram of SITE OF
22 HALL	Passage in hotel used by everyone (4)	H + ALL
24 COMMERCIAL	Unusual relic, described in letters, is in demand? (10)	Anagram of RELIC COMMA
26 SUNRISE INDUSTRY	In study, insurers redefined "new business" (7,8)	Anagram of IN STUDY INSURERS
27 SORTER	One who organises length of semesters or terms (6)	semesterS OR TERms
28 FREE DROP	Water grass, growing by river, defined in dandy golf ruling (4,4)	(REED + R) inside FOP

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 SAFELY	Speak about iron left in one piece (6)	SAY outside (FE + L)
2 RADIATION	Act of giving out aid in recession included in quota (9)	AID reversed inside RATION
3 TORRENTIAL	Coming down fast hill, hire car steered around one (10)	TOR + (RENTAL outside I)
4 HOLIDAY	I had activities primarily during sacred festival like Easter (7)	[ID + (A)ctivities] inside HOLY
6 ITCH	Lead removed from dog with irritation (4)	(b)ITCH
7 SEIZE	Confiscate drug in bulk (5)	E inside SIZE
8 DANGLING	Disconnected end of rod before fishing (8)	ro(D) + ANGLING
9 CLOCHE	Cover and sheet cut from prepared cheesecloth (6)	Anagram of CHEESECLOTH minus SHEET
13 MISFORTUNE	Accident is from bungled engine adjustment (10)	Anagram of IS FROM + TUNE
16 INITIATOR	Creative type reformed a trio after taking part (9)	Anagram of A TRIO after IN IT
17 EMPHASES	Stresses central part of supplemental chapters (8)	supplEMENTal + PHASES
19 ELOPED	East European picked up diamonds and ran off (6)	E + (POLE reversed) + D
20 SEMINAR	Workshop operated in recession underneath house (7)	RAN reversed after SEMI
21 PLAY UP	Call attention to malfunction (4,2)	Double Definition
23 LINER	It provides protection inside a ship (5)	Double Definition
25 KITE	Wind-up toy? (4)	Cryptic Definition