## AFR Cryptic (Saturday 20/4/2024) Solution

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ${ }^{4} \mathrm{D}$ |  | P |  | ${ }^{6} \mathrm{P}$ |  | $P^{7} \mathrm{E}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | A |  | A |  | A |  | E |  | E |  |  |
|  | ${ }^{9} \mathrm{C}$ |  |  | 1 | M | A | A | E | C | 0 | N | T | T R | - | 0 |
| ${ }^{18}$ |  |  | K |  | P |  | E |  | 1 |  | A |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{1} \mathrm{U}$ | N | N |  | T | E | D |  | ${ }^{12} \mathrm{~A}$ | F | F | L | U | U E | N | N |
| P |  |  |  |  | n |  | ${ }^{3}$ |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{14} \mathrm{E}$ | D | G |  | E |  | ${ }^{15}$ |  | A | A C | K | S |  | M ${ }^{16}$ I |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | ${ }^{17}$ S |  | U |  | R |  | E |  | L |  |  |
| ${ }^{18}$ | R | - |  | S | T | H | H E | S | S | S |  | ${ }^{19} \mathrm{C}$ | c |  | $\mathrm{U}^{28} \mathrm{~B}$ |
| E |  |  |  |  | A |  | P |  | M |  | ${ }^{21}$ |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{22} \mathrm{R}$ | E | ${ }^{23}$ |  | U | L | A | A $R$ | S | S | ${ }^{24}$ | A | R | R |  |  |
| U |  |  |  |  | L |  | 1 |  | B |  | S |  | E |  |  |
| ${ }^{26} 5$ | T |  |  | T | 1 | 0 | N | M | M A | S | T | E | E R | S | S |
| E |  |  |  |  | N |  | T |  | C |  | E |  | A |  |  |
| ${ }^{27}$ | R | R | 仡 | D | G | E | E |  | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{H}$ | A | N | D | D | E | E |


| Across | Clue | Explanation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 STUPID | Dull boss probed by private investigator (6) | PI inside STUD |
| 5 PEPPERS | Famous sergeant, close to targets, attacks with <br> missiles (7) | PEPPER + target(S) |
| 9 CLIMATE <br> CONTROL | Air-conditioning ruined art collection containing <br> original piece from Monet (7,7) | Anagram of ART <br> COLLECTION outside <br> (M)onet |
| 11 UNITED | Intruder, giving up rights, toyed with one (6) | Anagram of INTRUDER <br> minus (R+R) |
| 12 AFFLUENT | Social worker smoking fine pipe is well-off? (8) | ANT outside (F + FLUE) |
| 14 EDGE | Fringe leader not committed to club (4) | (w)EDGE |
| 15 BLACKSMITH | Forger is missing millions invested in a little <br> hotel (10) | (LACKS + M) inside <br> (BIT + H) |
| 18 PROSTHESIS | Artificial part in expert's proposal (10) | PROS + THESIS |
| 19 CLUB | One in pack featuring leaf primarily? (4) | CUB outside (L)eaf |
| 22 REGULARS | Shooter retreated while holding hostage right <br> ordinary customers (8) | LUGER reversed + (AS <br> outside R) |
| 24 BARBIE | Tavern that is hosting club's last meal (6) | (BAR + IE) outside <br> clu(B) |
| 26 | Railway officials stop steam trains badly losing <br> pressure (14) | Anagram of STOP <br> STEAM TRAINS minus <br> P |
| STATIONMASTERS | Doctor sharpens devices used to extract waste <br> matter from the bottom (7) | DR + EDGES |
| 27 DREDGES | Deal with serving of lunch and leftovers (6) | luncH AND LEftovers |
| 28 HANDLE |  |  |


| Down | Clue | Explanation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 TALKING-TO | Lecture leader involved in presentation of wrong total (72) | KING inside anagram of TOTAL |
| 3 PAMPER | Chart set up for each baby (6) | MAP reversed + PER |
| 4 DATE | See something growing on a palm tree (4) | Double Definition |
| 5 PACIFIC RIM | Coastal group raised limit provided by one lawbreaker $(7,3)$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { CAP reversed + IF + I } \\ & + \text { CRIM } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 6 PENALISE | Fine pen is carried by porter, say (8) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PEN + (IS inside } \\ & \text { ALE) } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 7 EERIE | Guinness, say, with no head? That is weird! (5) | (b)EER + IE |
| 8 SPLOTCH | Mark story line developed in school (7) | PLOT inside SCH |
| 10 DUPE | Page checked by outstanding kid (4) | P inside DUE |
| $13$ <br> BLUEPRINTS | Detailed plans replaced pier restricted by rounded pole (10) | Anagram of PIER inside (BLUNT + S) |
| 16 ILLIBERAL | Mean crook uncovered bible containing piece of history? (9) | ILL + [b)IBL(e outside ERA] |
| 17 STALLING | Everyone involved in hustle is playing for time (8) | ALL inside STING |
| 18 PERUSED | Deception adopted by page editor should be closely examined (7) | RUSE inside ( $\mathrm{P}+$ ED) |
| 20 BRED | Produced staple with sound quality (4) | Sounds like BREAD |
| 21 FASTEN | Bolt of lightning, say, bent in the middle (6) | FAST + b(EN)t |
| 23 GRAVE | Weighty stones mostly (5) | (GRAVE)1 |
| 25 BACH | German composer's time not put into collection (4) | BATCH minus T |
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